

成長チートで
なんでもできるようになったが、
無職だけは
辞められないようです

時野洋輔 Yousuke Tokino

Illustration : ちり

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I've Became Able to Do Anything with My Growth Cheat, but I Can't Seem to Get out of Being Jobless

Arc 2 - Carol Arc

by Yousuke Tokino

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(032) Prologue

5 days has passed since Onii left.

The room within the mansion that was changed to be under my name is now an empty shell. Instead of having a lived-in feel, the environment of the room now felt like it is doubtful if people have really lived in it.

That's because all the memories of the parents that nurtured us thinking that Onii and I were their own children was stowed away within me by spatial magic.

Then, I looked at the photo sticker taken at the game center stuck behind my handphone.

I alone was reflected in it, the figure of Onii who was supposed to be beside me had disappeared, the words that should have read "Miri & Ichi" had become only "Miri".

It's extremely unnatural, I glared at my treasure that has been stained.

It's not only the picture, from Onii's middle school graduation roster, from the phone book, from the residence registry, and from everybody's memories apart from mine, Onii has disappeared.

I plopped myself down spread eagled on the flooring with nothing laid out on it.

This world is treating it as Onii, Kusunoki Ichinosuke, never existed from the

beginning.

Of course, it was fraught with many contradictions. Making a single person disappear is synonymous with changing the whole world.

However, nobody noticed it. The world did not notice.

Other than myself, Onii lost everything.

To be able to do such a thing, if there is an individual capable of remaking the world, then it is not human. It's a life form that surpasses the realm of human.

(... Damn Goddess.)

I glared at the ceiling ... at the culprit that wasn't there.

If the Goddess wasn't there, Onii would have died. That I understand.

However, the crime of stepping on Onii and my memories can never be forgiven.

I can make an educated guess as to where Onii disappeared to.

5 days ago, a traffic accident involving a truck occurred and a large number of horses ran away.

It was reported that thankfully, apart from the truck driver and suspected horse thief suffering from light wounds, nobody else was injured.

I was confident that Onii was there so I began investigating.

I asked to see the feed from the surveillance camera located at the convenience store directly in front in exchange for money and began

investigating from there.

I saw a horse make unnatural movements as if it trampled on something invisible.

Onii must have been there.

However, there was no longer any trace of magic at the scene.

The path to the other world “Otherworld” can’t be opened from there.

I took a felt-tip pen and began writing a formula on the floor.

There’s a law to the time and place the door connecting to the other world opens.

These 5 days, I devoted myself to search every angle for the places where the door to the other world opened in the past.

Because it would be easier to decipher the formula if there was more data.

Then, I found out that within 20 years from the day Onii was transferred, a total of 5 transfers occurred. After deriving the law to the transfer, all that was left to do was to go to the place where the next door would open.

It was just data, an easier task than completely understanding the movement of stock prices that can control a person’s emotions.

Then, I continued to intently write the formula on the floor.

In that room that was devoid of any curtains, beds or tables.

In order to meet with Onii once again.

Onii must be suffering in the otherworld for not knowing right from left.
In a world with no gas or electricity.

Which is why I must quickly help him.

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Job: Philanderer 【Commoner Lv30】

This happens when you don't commence on a job and stay as a Commoner.

A job that can learn slightly unusual skills.

Special experience points acquisition condition: To join bodies with the opposite sex.

... What a ridiculous Job.

Thanks to my Job Appraisal skill becoming 「Job Appraisal II」, I am now able to view the description of Jobs as well as the conditions for acquiring experience points.

I found out that Farmers need to harvest crops, Peddlers need to sell trade goods and *etc.*

However, trade goods can only be purchased by entering the Merchants Guild so I abandoned that path.

As the carriage was swaying, I was checking on the jobs and skills that I possessed and my eyes stopped at the Job named Philanderer I recently acquired.

Joining bodies with the opposite sex basically mean that right.

I held out my right hand toward Haru.

” ... Haru, shake my hand.”

“Yes, master.”

I set my job as Philanderer and held hands.

Naturally, nothing happened. As expected, it's got to be that.

Hmm, what a wonderful ... outrageous job.

We continued riding in the carriage for 12 hours, the sun sank and rose up.

It was morning. The swaying carriage made my butt hurt and I honestly did not feel like I slept.

“We'll reach the town in about 1 hour later.”

I have a feeling he said the same thing half an hour ago but well, the road is slightly more maintained. The rattling from the mountain path seriously woke me up countless times.

Though, all the passengers (including Haru) apart from me felt like it wasn't a big deal and there were no indications that they woke up from the somewhat shaking carriage.

I only had the chance to stand up during the time we had a toilet break when we had to exchange the coachman and horse during the journey.

Incidentally, although I say toilet break, the toilet location was only the bushes along the road.

It's been 5 hours since that toilet break. I was thinking that I would like to go for another toilet break.

“Erm, master, until when should I hold on to your hand?”

Oh, ahh, I was thinking that it might be alright to continue holding on to her hand judging from Haru’s tail that continued to wag endlessly but the surrounding gazes would definitely be painful if I continued like this.

I released my hand in a hurry ... it was then.

Haru’s eyes sharpened.

“Master, I smell several people’s blood. I imagine they were attacked by monsters. Judging from the smell of blood, it should be quite a considerably dangerous situation.”

Haru told me.

” ... Is it close?”

“About 5 minutes if we ran.”

“Mister coachman! It seems like people were attacked by monsters! Please stop the carriage!”

When I called out to the coachman that was about 50 years old, the man looked over,

“That’s a daily occurrence here. I won’t stop the carriage for such a thing! If I don’t reach in time, I’ll get a salary cut and I won’t be able to afford to eat.”

and replied. The values were completely different from those in Japan.

The other passengers appeared the same. It didn't look like they would involve themselves.

"Then I'll alight here! That's fine right!"

"I won't be stopping the carriage okay."

"It doesn't matter. Haru, let's go."

"Yes, master."

We said that and hopped out from the carriage.

I also thought that I was being nosy, but it's the long-awaited start of my second life after all.

I'll live the way I want to live!

After we successfully landed, we left the road and entered the morning forest.

(033) The Girl in a barrel

The forest was not as dense and lush as compared to the forest I was in when I first came to this world.

However, I'm worried if we would be able to return to our original location if we kept running deeper.

In the end, I'll have to rely on Haru's sense of smell to find our original path.

Since she obtained the 「Olfactory Strengthening」 skill as a Beastman Warrior, she should be able to easily track the scent of the carriage to reach the next town.

Hence, I concentrated on helping the people in front of my eyes instead of worrying about the returning path.

“Master, the smell of blood is becoming stronger.”

Haru's tail stood at attention and her skirt was raised slightly.

.....

“Just a little more.”

“Yes, just a little more.”

Haru's tail reacted to the smell of the blood and raised further, causing her skirt to gradually lift,

” ... I see it! (But it's bloomers!)”

“Yes, I see them!”

” ... Eh?”

Looking forward, I saw an adventurer-like man get blown away by a huge bear.

It wasn't only the bear, wolves were present as well. The numbers were, bears 10 and wolves 20, it wasn't to the extent of the fish lizards but it was still quite a number.

The same type of monsters gathering to attack a single person might happen, but is it possible for multiple types of monsters to team up and attack a group of adventurers?

There wasn't just the adventurer that was sent flying, there were 5 other fallen adventurers but they have all most likely died.

There's an item like the monster repelling incense so there might be a monster attracting incense item as well.

But it would be disastrous if you're killed by using it.

“I'll defeat the bears so I leave the wolves to you Haru.”

I said and before I unsheathed my sword, I released 「Slash」 using my 2 arms.

An X was carved into the torso of the bear and it fell to the ground.

Unlike monsters within labyrinths, surface monsters do not disappear after death.

Apparently, it's tough having to confirm if the monster is dead or not.

I drew my sword and rushed between 2 bears,

“「Rotational Slash」!”

The 「Rotational Slash」cleanly split the torso of the bear in 2 but ... the sword felt heavy.

After dissecting one of the bears, the power was greatly reduced and the sword dug into the body of the second bear, I could not pull the sword out. It felt like the sword would snap if I forcefully pulled it out.

At that moment, the half-dissected bear swung at me with its left arm and I instantly jumped backward.

What’s it doing, instead of focusing on me or the fallen adventurers, it was digging at the ground.

Is there something below?

... Wrong, not something but someone.

My 「Presence Detection」was reacting.

Looking closely, the earth there was dug up once and there were shovels scattered about.

Was it dug by the adventurers?

No, it was filled in afterward so the adventurers buried somebody?

A monster? Or a person?

And then, the monsters are trying to dig it out?

Not only the bears, the wolves were digging as well.

Thanks to that, the number of opponents we had to face decreased so I was thankful of that.

Well then, playtime is over.

“「Slash」!”

Releasing the 「Slash」 with my knife hand, another bear collapsed and I dove into the bosom of another, released a palm strike and struck the jaw of the bear with a flying knee kick.

After defeating a total of 5 bears, the remaining 5 bears seemed like they thought that they no longer had the option to continue to dig, so they aimed for me and charged.

However, you're all out of luck for clumping together ... no, you all were already dead the moment you encountered me!

“「Fire」!”

Changing my job to magic-specialization, I released my magic with the largest firepower.

That attack wrapped 4 of the bears with flames ... but 1 was outside the range so it rushed at me.

However, Haru's 2 swords tore through the bear's body.

“Master, sorry for intruding into your battle.”

“Don’t worry, that helped.”

Looking at the fallen bear, I honestly replied.

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Magician skill: 「Water Magic」 skill has leveled up to 「Water Magic II」】

【Swordsman skill: 「Dual-wield」 obtained】

Even though I changed my job midway through the battle, I still had a decent rise in level.

However, I only acquired 2 skills.

Then, I looked at the adventurer that was sent flying moments ago.

.... As expected, he’s dead. I checked his pulse to confirm his death.

” ... In the end, we couldn’t save anyone.”

“No ... we might still be able to save one person.”

I said and picked up a shovel before beginning to dig up the earth.

Haru did not notice due to the smell of blood but she understood through my actions and helped with the excavation.

And then, under the earth, was a barrel.

A large wine barrel.

” ... Hey, anyone in there?”

” ... Who? Who’s there?”

The sound that came from within the barrel was the voice of a young girl.
Then, Haru stood up and her tail tensed.

“Master, monsters are heading this way.”

“Hurry! Please quickly get Carol out of here!”

Maybe she was anxious after hearing that monsters were coming, the voice from within the barrel became louder.

I would have done it without it being said, I opened the lid of the barrel.

Inside the barrel was a black dress wearing, purple-haired ... young girl.
About 12 years old ... maybe about the same age as Miri?

In addition, on her neck was the same slave collar as Haru.

Even such a young child is a slave huh.

Rather than that, we better quickly escape from here.

” ... Master, the monsters movements have stopped ... somehow, they have gone away.”

“Really? ... Thank goodness.”

I was relieved and looked at the young girl.

Even though she heard that the monsters have left, the young girl still looked downcast ... Ah, that’s right.

She most likely understood that we were the ones who dug up the barrel.

I have no idea why she was buried underground but her being a slave means someone among the slain adventurers was this child's master.

"Sorry, we could not protect your masters."

"Evidently ... despite what Carol said ..." (TL: She speaks in 3rd person)

Despite what she said?

I had misgivings about the way she spoke as if she knew from the very start that the men would die.

Then, the young girl that was probably called Carol looked me in the eye and appealed.

"I don't know who you are but please ... Carol ... me, please kill me."

(034) The “I want to live comfortably” Offertory box

I doubted my ears upon hearing the young girl ask to have herself killed.

However, no matter how I interpret it, that was a request for a contract murder.

“Master, she’s likely to be a rental slave. Killing a rental slave without a legitimate reason would bring upon judgement from the heavens, causing you to fall into a Thief.”

“I see. Well, I did not have the intention of killing her in the first place.”

So it’s up to the heaven’s judgement if a person is assigned as a Thief or not huh. That’s ambiguous.

Certainly, looking at Carol’s slave collar, there were 7 lights lit up.

Meaning there was still 7 hours worth of rental time.

“However, if you’re a rental slave, then why were you buried underground? Even though you must be brought back to the slave dealer.”

I dragged Carol out from within the barrel and stood her facing me.

Long purple hair and about 120cm tall.

She looks like a normal cute young girl but why does she want to die so desperately?

Does she hate being a slave?

And why was she buried underground?

” ... Well, it’s fine if you don’t want to speak. Haru, let’s dismantle the monsters. It’ll be troublesome alone so I’ll help you.”

I said and approached Haru, whispering (I’ll be changing your job to Hunter) to the wolf ears on top of her head.

Dismantling monsters using the 「Dismantling」 skill gains experience points for Hunters.

Also, what should we do with the bodies of the adventurers?

“In cases where adventurers pass away, their possessions belong to the discoverer. Shall we collect their equipment?”

“No, no ... we have a decent amount of gold and it’ll be troublesome if it brings trouble.”

I stripped the fur from the bears using the dagger I got from the thieves.

The equipment I obtained from the thieves is quite useful.

However, they weren’t really of good quality.

Halfway through dismantling, I was informed that the monsters were approaching again so I stored the half-dismantled monster into my item bag and left. I guess they were attracted by the smell of blood.

I did not think that the adventurer’s bodies could fit into my item bag.

It wasn’t because I could not treat dead people as items, but because I somewhat could not stomach travelling together with people’s bodies.

Originally, I should carry them to the bereaved families.

“Carol, guide us to the town.”

” ”

Carol nodded silently.

We exited the forest after about an hour.

I could spot a town a distance away. So that’s the town of Belasra huh.

Looks like it is bigger than the town of Florence.

Apparently, the labyrinth managed by Torerul is there. For the time being, the goal within that town is to clear that dungeon. Before that, I’d have to return Carol to the slave dealership.

The lights on the slave collar disappeared by 1 and was left with 6.

“By the way, rental slaves will not listen to orders from the owner after the rental time ends so won’t they escape then?”

“They are ordered to not escape and also prohibited from committing suicide. Though they are not prohibited from contracting others to kill them. However, there’s never been a case where a person killed a rental slave because he was requested to.”

Since they will become a Thief after all. And there might be a penalty as well.

In my case, the thing that would trouble me the most if I get turned into a Thief would be that it might replace Jobless.

If that happens, Jobless would disappear and I would not be able to acquire Jobless skills in the future. I must definitely avoid that.

We walked for another 30 minutes. The gatekeeper was a rugged old man.

I changed my second job to Commoner. The entry tax would be cheaper if I assign Peddler but I don't know if the crystal ball's colour would change if I set a third job and above all, I want to pay the taxes.

There were 2 groups ahead paying their entry tax but it quickly reached our turn.

Then, the gatekeeper old man, at first glance of Carol,

" ... Dead huh."

Said a single word.

"Yes."

"I see."

Carol nodded and he didn't ask any further.

"You're here to deliver her right? Thank you."

The old man bowed and returned to the ordinary course of business.

I placed my hand on the crystal ball and he confirmed that I was not a Thief.

My entry tax was 50 sense while Haru's was 60 sense. Slaves' taxes are higher huh?

It was confirmed that Carol left the town at the break of dawn so she didn't have to pay for the entry tax.

【Ichinojo Level up】

Commoner level reached Lv36.

It would have been fine if the tax was slightly higher though.

“The slave dealership shop can be seen from here, that brown brick building.”

“The building that looks like a red brick warehouse right?”

Yokohama or Hakodate or Tsuruga? *(TL: They're all Japan seaports)*

It was something that would make one feel a sense of history if seen in Japan but in this world I can imagine that it's seen as a new building.

It was an extremely large building.

“Is slave dealing lucrative?”

“There's a gambling parlour in this town so there are many debt slaves.”

Carol explained. Falling into debt from gambling and selling themselves huh? Can't really feel any sympathy for them. To fall into gambling and self-destruct, looks like it doesn't change in Japan or in the other world as well.

Walking slightly, we reached a square and I saw that young girl I've seen before once ... Torerul's statue in the center of it.

They were plenty of people dedicating prayers to that statue.

Torerul's statue seemed to be kind of a tourist spot in this town.

“I’ve mentioned that Torerul is also called the Goddess of Gambling right. Because this is the town with the labyrinth managed by Torerul, there are many who bet againsts each other to gain her blessing.”

However, even if there really is a Blessing of Torerul, the only ones who can acquire that are not limited to the customers? Do they not consider that the bookmakers who live in this town and open the gambling parlours may have that blessing as well?

Well, I can’t imagine that slacker Goddess-sama giving her blessing to people.

There was a chained offertory box placed in front of the stone statue and a lot of people were tossing copper coins into it.

In a world without 1 yen or 5 yen, with the lowest denomination 1 sense, or in other words 1 copper coin, the amount in the offertory box should be quite sizeable. The offertory boxes in Japan have mechanisms against theft but it was only held by a chain here, I was worried if the entire offertory box would be stolen but stealing money from a Goddess statue would definitely turn you into a Thief.

I guess there are not that many people who would do such a sacrilegious act.

“The offertory box was proposed to be installed by lost Japanese people more than a hundred years ago. (*TL: ‘lost’ people = transported people*) It allowed donations without the troublesome procedures and spread the faith so the Goddess church members immediately adopted it. Even in Florence, there’s a statue of the Goddess of Battle and Victory, Setolans-sama and there’s an offertory box installed in front of it.”

“Ooo, I didn’t know that ... Haru is so knowledgeable.”

“When I was young, I enjoyed reading the books in the archive of the royal palace my parents served at and I equipped myself with knowledge there.”

So when Haru was younger, she lived together with her family in some royal palace?

Now that I think about it, I've never asked Haru about the reason why she became a slave and giving it some thought, I realised that I still don't know anything about Haru.

I also have to talk to Haru about my Jobless job so I'll have to arrange a time for us to thoroughly converse in the future.

"Well, shall we go make a donation as well?"

I took out 3 copper coins from my item bag, I passed 1 to Haru and 1 to Carol.

"It is alright?"

Carol asked.

"Children don't have to worry about it."

"But Carol is 16-years-old."

Seriously! Eh, the age of a high school girl?

She looks like a primary school kid no matter how I look at her.

"Because I'm half minihume." (*TL: Literally mini-human*)

Haru once again explained to the clueless me.

Apparently, minihume is a race with half the height of hume.

Half minihume is a half-blood between a hume and a minihume so their height stops at about 120cm and they apparently look younger than hume.

“Well, 16-years-old is also considered a child to me.”

“Erm ... it is fine for me to receive it as well? Even though I’m 18-years-old.”

Haru said reservedly.

” ... Eh? Haru’s younger than me!?”

” ... Master, you didn’t know about my age?”

“Yeah, I believe it is rude to ask about a girl’s age.”

She’s so reliable so I thought that she would be slightly older than me.

Haru’s tail drooped downward.

Ah, I did something bad. I’ll buy some jerky for her next time. Of course, those disinfected with alcohol.

“Oh, Carol, Torerul-sama is called the Goddess of Pleasure and Gambling but her true nature is a Goddess-sama who thinks it is better to live comfortably. I don’t know the reason but instead of saying you want to die, pray that you want to live comfortably. Try being the single person praying to feel at ease within the mass of people praying to win their gambles. It will definitely stand out so she might grant your wish.”

I said words that sounded like I was fooling her and had her hold the copper coin.

Then, I tossed my own copper coin into the offertory box.

The copper coin noisily bounced once, twice and fell to the bottom of the box.

Then, I thanked her for the 1/20 required experience points blessing I received.

Looking to my side, I saw Carol with her hands pressed together, earnestly making a wish.

To the other side, Haru's tail was wagging as she made a wish. I wonder what in the world was she wishing for.

(035) Carol's unique occupation

The number of people in front of the goddess statue increased so we decided to change location and left.

The red brick warehouse ... or rather the slave trading post was just a stone's throw away.

I entered the slave trading post together with Carol and Haru.

" ... Welcome, eh, Carol ... you're already done?"

A bewitching woman about 40 years of age with long hair dressed in a long skirt said that. She was smoking on something like a pipe. Instead of the regular tobacco, it gave off an extremely sweet smell but I wasn't a big fan of that fragrance.

"I've returned, Madame Quince."

"This person is?"

"He helped me after the adventurers that I was contracted to died."

" ... I see. Carol, return to your room. I will have a talk with him."

Carol obeyed Quince's words and left.

She didn't say farewell even until the end, such an indifferent person.

Well, I arbitrarily helped her so I shouldn't expect her gratitude huh.

"Sorry, that girl lives in despair."

Exhaling smoke from her mouth, Quince spoke. Living in despair.

I recalled her asking me to kill her.

"That's the fourth party of adventurers to have departed with her and faced annihilation. Even if they are not wiped out, the number of deaths reaches double-digits."

" ... Why does that happen?"

"That girl is the owner of a unique job."

"Unique job?"

I tilted my head to the unfamiliar term and Haru explained to me.

Unique jobs are innate jobs acquired since birth.

"The famous ones are hero, demon lord, royalty, and nobility. Nobles are born with the Noble job so there is a proverbial saying that we commoners will never become nobles no matter how hard we work. Additionally, although they are small in numbers, there are jobs that can only be acquired by specific individuals regardless of their job levels. There are some that are innate and some that are acquired. Also, unique job holders cannot easily change to other jobs and they possess peculiar skills that can only be used by that unique job."

"So that's what you mean by unique jobs ..."

Jobs that can only be acquired by a specific person huh. Come to think of it, the goddess ... among the blessings presented by Koshmar, there was one to

become a hero.

“Temptress ... that is that child’s job.” *(TL: The job is not specifically sexual, so instead of seductress, it should be temptress)*

“Temptress? It sounds like a job that is unrelated to Carol though?”

“At night, a particular pheromone is released from her body that attracts monsters. Apparently, it is a job like that. It was when that child was 14 years old, that unique job suddenly appeared and she was immobilized.”

“Immobilized?”

I once again heard an unfamiliar term so I asked by parroting the term. Although I feel apologetic to constantly interrupt the story.

“It refers to a situation whereby a person can’t change jobs in the usual temples. Or when the job change can’t be done unless by somebody above bishop-sama.”

I understood after listening to Haru’s explanation.

“Night time, or places where the sun cannot reach. For example, if she enters a labyrinth that stretches underground, in the end, she will attract all the surrounding monsters ... however, the attracted monsters will never attack Carol. That is the amazing part about Temptress. But then, according to literature, if the Temptress wounds the attracted monsters, their hypnotic state would be dispelled and even the Temptress would be attacked.”

“So those adventurers buried Carol underground to lure the monsters huh ...”

“Ah, that’s because there were multiple requests put up for the collection of brown bear pelt for high prices. Around this season, the brown bears rarely appear at populated locations so they most likely wanted to utilize that child’s

power ... even if she is buried underground, the pheromone will leak out from the air holes.”

Quince said and stood up,

“Due to that power, that child must sleep in an airtight room at night so it’s tough in various ways but even so, the demand for her rental is high. Since she is a convenient child if you utilize her correctly. Thanks to you 2 bringing her back, it doesn’t look like she suffered any injuries so this is to thank you.”

After saying that, Quince took out a small bag containing coins.

” ... Thank you ...”

I took the small bag of coins and bowed.

I did not help her for the sake of money but I believe this was purely courtesy from Quince.

Then, we left the trading post.

“Master ... perhaps with master’s ability?”

” ... I might be able to change Carol’s job ... but ...”

I looked at the job of the man passing by ahead of us.

【Carpenter Lv17】

I changed that man's job to Commoner in my mind.

However ... his job did not change.

I've tried it before but I can only change the jobs of companions.

Due to that, I can't secretly change other people's jobs.

I do more or less have the option of changing Carol's job when I rent her.

However, what should I do after that?

There's a high chance Quince will find out about my skill to change jobs.

To change her job without letting anybody else other than her knowing, my only option is to buy her.

That's not likely to be a bad thing. It will also likely solve Carol's problems.

However, if we encounter the same thing again, will I solve it the same way and keep buying slaves?

And will I reveal my secret to every one of them?

I'm afraid to do that.

" ... I mean, we don't really have the leeway to purchase Carol now. Shall we go to the Adventurer's Guild?"

"That's right, since it seems like the pelt of the brown bear will sell for a high price if we sell it now."

Haru did not mention anything about Carol's job after that and she followed after me.

(036) Bear Dismantling

In this town, the gambling parlours and shops were housed in the center, to the west was the residential areas and further west were the fields and farms within the city, to the east were workshops like the blacksmiths, the Adventurers Guild was also housed there and the labyrinth was even further east.

The difficulty level of the labyrinth in this town is below medium. Looks like at our current strength, we can easily clear it.

Advancing toward the east, the jobs of the people coming and going leaned toward those who fight for a living like Apprentice Swordsmen or Archers and the people with jobs like Blacksmith and Apprentice Alchemist increased.

「Job Appraisal」 is convenient when we arrive in a new town because I can understand the features of the districts when I use it.

” ... Oh?”

Looking at the man dressed affluently who passed us by, I looked back.
That man’s job was unexpected.

“Did something happen?”

“No, that man just now, his job was Philanderer ... I was thinking that there are people who become Philanderers for the fun of it after all.”

Although it’s strange for a person like me who remain as Jobless even though

I don't like it to say that.

Looking at that Philanderer's wealthy appearance, I wondered if being a Philanderer is a profitable business.

"He's probably heading toward the gambling parlours."

"Gambling parlours?"

"The luck stat of a Philanderer is higher than the other jobs. Typically, money is required to change your job at the temple so people who enjoy going to gambling parlours don't change their jobs for it but rich people like him do so and challenge the gambling parlours. In the first place, only wealthy people are able to become Philanderers."

Ah, it's a job that comes from leveling up Commoner but there's a need to pay high taxes when a person is still a Commoner.

So it's the reasoning that only wealthy people are able to pay the high taxes.

Commoners are unfit for battle so money is required to hire people to power level them as well.

"But then again, it's a myth that people with high luck stats will profit in the gambling parlour."

"I'd guess so. It might somewhat come in handy but it's set up such that the bookmaker wins most of the time anyway."

In Japan, you might be able to win in games controlled by computers like the pachislots or pachinko if your luck is good but for games like roulette or cards that uses dice, it is dependent on the bookmaker's technique.

If that's the case, you can no longer compete using luck.

“Oh, I’ll get some fruit juices. Auntie, 2 cups please.”

I found the drink releasing the sweet fragrance so I paid 14 sense and purchased 2 cups.

She scooped it out of a barrel, poured it into porcelain cups and passed them to us. So the high price is due to the porcelain.

It seems like the price would be 2 sense if we brought our own cups so the porcelain is 5 sense huh.

“Here, Haru’s share.”

“Thank you very much, master.”

The 2 of us drank while walking. It was a juice similar to lemonade. Honey was mixed in instead of sugar so it was quite easy to drink.

After we’ve finished, I placed the porcelains in my item bag.

Then, we arrived at the Adventurers Guild.

It was a building with the sword and shield sign hung above and a shut door different from the one in Florence.

Upon opening the door ... the first thing that enters my nose was the smell of alcohol.

And then, I only had one comment. It’s exactly like a tavern.

No, the guild is most likely actually juxtaposed with a tavern. Looking at the woman carrying alcohol from across the hallway, I sighed.

It's a place that I won't get accustomed to.

It's still daytime but they are already drinking alcohol.

It's completely a gag if I say it myself but even so, I'm still going to say it.

... Go to work, you lot.

Well, there might be some here who have already finished their work.

There was a counter at the back so we headed there.

There was a man behind the counter looking through documents but he looked up when we approached and far from a business smile, he glared at us and spoke.

"I've not seen your faces before but is there something you want?"

"On our way here we hunted brown bears. We want to dismantle the bodies but may we borrow a place to do so?"

"The body is outside huh ... there's a vacant lot at the back. You can use it freely ... incidentally, how many brown bears did you hunt?"

"10."

"I see ... do you have the dismantling skill?"

"Yes."

"Have you experienced dismantling brown bears?"

"I dismantled 1 on the way here but it's my first time."

Why did he ask such a question?

As I was thinking,

“Wait a moment.”

The man said and took out a dagger from a drawer at the back of the guild.

“It’s a kumakiri knife. I’ll lend you this so use it ... if you take an interest in it, you can purchase it from the neighbouring weapon shop. The old man would be happy.” *(TL: Kumakiri = literally bear cutter.)*

” ... Thank you, that will help.”

I’ve had plenty of bad impressions of the Adventurers Guild but there are good people as well huh.

While thinking that, I left the Adventurers guild and doubled back to the back door from the outside.

Seriously, even though there are kind people in the Adventurers Guild as well. *(TL: He’s implying that there are still bad people in the guilds, you’ll know what he meant by the end of the chapter)*

I took out the brown bears from my item bag and began dismantling them.

Haru dismantled the wolves.

Of course, I set Haru and my jobs as Hunters.

During our idle conversation as we were dismantling, I found out that it is not taboo for the white wolf tribe to hunt wolves so they apparently don’t have a sense of community with wolves. I thought that it was a misstep to let Haru kill the wolves but looks like it’s fine.

Dismantling a bear took 20 minutes each. Thus, it took 3 hours to finish dismantling all 9 bears.

Haru could dismantle the wolves in half the time but she also took quite some time.

Even so, the 「Dismantling」 skill sure is amazing. If we dismantled them normally, it would have taken a multitude of the time we spent.

Dismantling II 【Hunter Lv15】

Allows one to know the dismantling procedure like the back of their hand.

Dismantling technique, muscle strength, speed, and finesse are significantly increased.

Thanks to this skill, we could do our work quickly, carefully and splendidly.

During that time, my Hunter level also raised by 3.

It's now Lv29. I wonder what skill I'll acquire when it becomes Lv30.

Well, dismantling 9 bears gave me growth similar to dismantling 3600 bears so I guess it would level me up to this extent.

To be frank, dismantling 1 bear is more tiring than defeating 1.

“Okay, we’re done dismantling them so shall we bring them away?”

The moment I said that.

5 men approached us.

“As I thought, they’ve finished dismantling, big brother.”

“That’s true, this is lucky. Hey, kids, I won’t say anything bad so will you hand over those bears to us?”

“Come on~ It’s fine if you just hand them over in good faith. You don’t want to experience pain right?”

“We’ll give you the bear meat as thanks.”

“It’s important to have a spirit of volunteerism.”

Stealing a person’s quarry in broad daylight?

Most likely they overheard our conversation in the guild.

“Won’t you become Thieves if you do so?”

“Hah, people become Thieves when they steal other people’s things or when they pursue those with serious injuries. What we’re doing is barely out of the scope of stealing you know?”

The man proudly boasts about something he shouldn’t be proud of.

... What are they talking about? Are these guys ... idiots?

Side Story Happening at the same time. The real idiots?

The highway that connects Florence and Belasra has a mountain road along the way but it is still a single straight road.

Of course, there are forest roads for the sake of Lumberjacks carrying lumber and animal trails naturally formed by animals pushing through the forest but

they can't be mistaken for the highway.

People will definitely never get lost, one shouldn't be able to get lost, if there are people who will get lost, then they will definitely be ...

"Oh man, Belasra sure is far, Elise."

"Belasra sure is far, Jofre."

Within the forest without even an animal trail, not to mention the highway, Jofre and Elise were advancing.

In other words, they were completely lost.

The 2 of them who lived in Florence for a long time understood that they were amateurs in travelling.

Which is why they relied on someone.

Someone who look like they are a professional in journeying.

"Well, Centaur looks like he is saying that it should be around here so it shouldn't be wrong."

"They've said that Centaur has been to Belasra countless times right."

Centaur ... the donkey that the 2 of them purchased, most likely did not imagine that he would be relied upon to such an extent. He was merely aiming for the places where there are things that he wishes to eat. Through the undeveloped lands where people have never stepped foot in, he was pioneering ... no, merely grazing as he advanced.

It is still a long way ahead before the 2 of them arrive at Belasra.

(037) Rare Guest at the Weapons Shop

“Oh man, boss, you’re so evil, if you just said that you are strong then we won’t have done such a thing.” (Random lackey among the 5)

No, even if I don’t say anything, they should be able to come to that conclusion if they think about how I hunted the bears.

Or maybe these guys thought that I was a Peddler who bought the bear pelts from other towns knowing that their prices are higher here?

“Nope, just like how you guys thought of ways to shake down others such that you won’t become Thieves, I’ve also thought of ways to punish people without leaving behind any aftermath.” (Ichinojo)

Since Haru mentioned that a person will not become a Thief if it is done in self-defense, I continued to intently beat up the adventurers who attacked us at the backyard we did our dismantling work.

What I was doing can be taken as torture but it was something I had to endure if I am to survive in this world from now on.

There were some who were about to flee but naturally, I did not allow them to escape.

“Well then, carry it all into the guild and honestly tell them everything after that.”

“”””””Yes boss!””””””

The 5 of them saluted while they could not stand properly due to the bruises, abrasions, bald spots and dislocations that can’t be said to be serious injuries on

their bodies and helped me carry the dismantled bears.

They each separately carried the bear meat, pelt, internal organs, and wolf meat. The bear gall bladders was an expensive compound even among the internal organs so it seemed like it could be traded for an especially high price. Apparently, there are skilled Hunters who only extract the bear gall bladders when they hunt too many bears.

Incidentally, there's something else. I imagined that the bear paw would be treated as a luxury food item but in this world, rather than a luxury food item, its price even among the edible meat was low. It was slightly disappointing.

The entrance to the Adventurers Guild was not wide enough for the cart to enter.

We had to carry them by hand.

I had the adventurers who attacked us carry the internal organs and such while Haru and I carried the pelts.

The room for the purchase of monster materials was a separate room so I had them carry the materials there.

"... I'm surprised, those are stunning pelts ... The dismantling was done perfectly. So you hunted forest wolves as well huh."

The guild staff said that he would immediately appraise the items but I did what I had to do before that.

"Ah, before that, please listen to what these people have to say."

The 5 people who carried the materials over winced.

Then, the 5 of them began their confession.

While trembling in fear.

“For the time being, they claimed that they have not done any further crimes but could the guild investigate it?”

“Understood. For now, you lot, carry the bear meat to the food warehouse and ask them to weigh it, also, I can roughly judge the weight by looking so don’t try to deceive me.”

Somehow, this guild staff is well known in the guild so the 5 of them all saluted and left.

“The bear pelts will be 360 sense each, we’re buying them at 20% higher than the usual price since they are requested items. Next, the bear gall bladders are undamaged so it should be about 4000 sense in total. The wolf pelt will go for 50 sense each while the fangs will sell for a total of 40 sense. I’m sorry but we do not purchase wolf meat here, however, I’ll write a letter of introduction for you so you can sell them to the butcher in the west street. This amount of meat could likely cover your accommodation charges. Next ...”

The staff listed the respective prices.

I don’t know if the prices are low or high, but looking at Haru’s tail, the pricing should be quite decent.

“Including the fee for the mastery of dismantling, it will be a total of 9800 sense. I’m sorry but no manner how much I utilize my own discretion, 10000

sense is impossible.”

” ... Haru, what do you think?”

“I believe it is sufficient. At the very least, I don’t believe it is an inappropriate amount.”

I guess. I mean ... 9800 sense, in other words, 980000 yen? *(TL: For those lost with the native currency conversion, 1 sense roughly = 1 USD)*

If I hand over the remaining 2 silver coins, it would become a gold coin you know?

So that’s why those guys tried to steal it.

Even those guys who were killed by the bears risked their lives to hunt the monsters.

Using Haru’s adventurer’s certificate, I received the money. 9 bundles of 10 silver coins and 8 loose silver coins.

We unexpectedly got our hands on a lot of money.

“Oh yeah, this kumakiri knife, thank you. It was extremely easy to use.”

I maintained the kumariki knife with the method taught to me by Margaret-san and returned it.

The man kept the knife in his breast pocket without taking it out of its sheath,

“Yeah, since you’ve earned a large sum, you can purchase it from the old man at the neighbouring shop.”

and declared so.

... He's right.

Even during the battle with the bears, I could not pull out my iron sword after piercing the bear so I want a sword with a good edge.

I also want to buy a sword for Haru anyway.

"Then I'll go have a look. Thank you."

I bowed to the reception man and followed his suggestion.

I thought that it would be best if the receptionist is a beautiful lady but a service-minded person who can get the job done is more helpful after all.

I placed the large sum of money in my item bag and left the Adventurers Guild.

... Also, I was hungry.

It was going to be night time soon so we had to find an inn as well.

" ... Night ... huh ..."

I looked at the sinking sun and sighed.

"Are you thinking about Carol?"

" ... Strictly forbidden from leaving the place at night. I was thinking that it is as if she's the direct opposite of vampires ... that's all."

I said so and entered the weapon shop next to the Adventurers Guild.

Swords, knives, spears, armors of various different types were on display in the weapon shop.

I tried looking at the sword kept in a showcase exuding a famous sword-like atmosphere.

200000 sense ... 1 sword is 20 million yen huh.

I wonder if it is lucrative to be a blacksmith.

It might be nice to pass the time by becoming a blacksmith and forging swords after I raise Jobless to the highest level and acquire all the skills.

I will spread my name as a blacksmith the same time I graduate from Jobless.

However, to become a blacksmith, I apparently need to level Hammer-user to get Apprentice Blacksmith before I can become a Blacksmith.

“Welcome. What are you looking for?”

A young man came out to the counter.

This guy is a blacksmith? I thought but the guild reception man mentioned ‘old man’. No matter how I look at it, this guy is too young to be called that.

I tried looking at his job and 【Apprentice Blacksmith Lv4】 came up. He’s most likely something like a disciple of this shop’s owner.

“Yeah, I borrowed and used the kumakiri knife in the Adventurers Guild and the sharpness was excellent so I hope to get 1 as well.”

“Ah, kumakiri knife huh. Please come this way.”

“200 sense huh ... maybe I’ll buy 1 then. Also, I want a sword with a sharp edge as well. One about this size.”

I took out my iron sword to show him.

I yearn for a greatsword but I wanted to place emphasis on usability.

“If that’s the case, then how about the steel sword here?”

Steel sword huh. It’s certainly true that it will be easier to use than an iron sword.

The price is 1000 sense? I still don’t know well enough if it is expensive or cheap but I’ll buy it.

“Haru, do you have anything you want?”

“No, nothing really ...”

“I see, by the way, Haru, please walk there slowly.”

I ordered her to slowly walk along the dagger corner. *(TL: it can refer to either daggers or short swords)*

As Haru slowly walked, her tail swung greatly in front of a particular sword.

” ... Fang of the Fire Dragon?”

The price is 3000 sense huh.

“It’s a dagger made from the fang of a fire dragon.”

The male sales attendant took the dagger and put some force into it.

When he did so ... the dagger lit with fire.

“It is capable of converting physical attack power into magical power and release flames. It is useful for Swordsmen with low magic attack power and also because it can perform long-ranged attacks.”

I accepted the sword from the man and tried it myself. Of course, I held back.

Oh, the sword certainly gets lit on fire.

“Then, I’ll have 1 of this. Haru, use this.”

“Eh ... I already have the short sword.”

“Keep 1 as a spare. Since you never know what might happen during a fight.”

” ... Thank you very much ...! Shopkeeper, sorry but please hide me!”

Haru said so, flew behind the counter and hid in the back.

“Eh? Haru? What’s wrong?”

“Sorry master. Please assume that I am not here.”

What?

When I was still thinking about that.

“Umu, so this is a commoner weapon shop ... what a dirty shop. Sebastian, does this really belong to the best blacksmith in Belasra?”

“Yes, Oregeru-sama. That was what I heard but the information was from a hoodlum’s information shop at any rate.” *(TL: Oregeru is the noble that wanted*

to buy Haru)

The ones who entered was a man in wealthy-looking clothes and a butler about 50 years of age.

Looking at their jobs, I conjectured the reason for Haru's strange state.

【Noble Lv14】

【Combat Butler Lv49】

... Haru, so it's because of this?

However, this person ...

“However, Sebastan, there doesn't seem to be any majestic sword fit for my use.”

“Yes, as expected, we can't hope to find a sword befitting of Oregeru-sama without hiring an exclusive blacksmith.”

... He took out something that looked like a toy sword, a sword that was even smaller than a short sword.

The sword was shining gold but the blade was rounded such that it didn't look like it could even cut paper.

... Short legs with a short and stout body ... and also a voice as if it had not even broken.

Isn't he just a brat.

“Well, a fading shop like this would likely gain prestige since I've come to visit. Count yourself lucky, shopkeeper! I'll have this in exchange for advertising cost ...”

Oregeru tried to carry one of the swords on display ... but could not carry it and gave up,

“It doesn't matter. We're going to the gambling parlor Sebastan.”

“Yes, Oregeru-sama.”

The 2 left as the Apprentice Blacksmith young man and I remained silent. Then, Haru's face popped up.

“Haru, perhaps that person is?”

“Yes, he's the person who wanted to purchase me, Oregeru-sama.”

So it's a person like that.

... Seriously?

(038) Confiding secret

There weren't any inns near the Adventurers Guild so we ended up returning to the neighbourhood around the slave dealership.

During that time, Haru remained vigilant to make sure the aristocrat Oregeru wasn't around with her nose perked up.

There was a high chance that noble would stay in a high-class inn so we looked for a regular inn and stayed there.

It was an inn that looked like it was remodelled from a wooden private house but it was cheap, it only cost us 50 sense for 2 people inclusive of dinner and breakfast. I paid an extra charge of 10 sense for the holding fee. It will be returned to us when we return the key. It's similar to the coin locker system in public baths but it is apparently a common practice in this world.

A single tub of hot water is free of charge but I'll have to pay for the second tub. A tub of hot water cost 1 sense. For light, it seemed that a single candle was free of charge so I made do with one candle.

I had them deliver it to the room later. I paid for it in advance. There was a tip-free label in front of the shop so there weren't any other costs for the time being.

Won't I be able to make hot water by pouring water into a bucket and casting 「Petite Fire」 into it? I thought for a bit but it would be a disaster if I caused a fire. If I experiment and find that I can accurately aim into the bucket a 100 times out of a 100 and that any type of bucket could be used to make hot water that way, then I would no longer need to borrow hot water anymore.

The room prepared for us was on the second floor so Haru and I headed toward it. It's good that I requested for a room with twin beds. It certainly had 2 beds.

However, because the room was narrow, the beds were completely stuck together so it was no different from a double bed.

Well, it's more convenient for me this way.

However, Haru's complexion was dark.

I guess she was still thinking about that noble after all.

At this time, after postponing the question until now, I felt like asking Haru the reason why she became a slave as well as the circumstances that made that young master interested in her.

That's why ...

"Haru, I'm going to speak! Please listen!"

I declared.

Then, I sat on the edge of the bed. It was a stiff bed, practically lacking any kind of cushioning.

Haru wanted to listen while standing but I urged her to sit beside me so we sat side by side.

"Haru, I believe I've said that I'm from the otherworld, a Japanese. Japan is a country in a world where nobody can use magic. In Japan, there are practically no monsters that will attack people. Well, there are animals similar to brown bears. Because of that, technologies based on science and technology like

moving equipment using power from combustion or from harnessing lightning were developed. Without using magic, we had iron ships that flew in the skies, we were able to obtain information from around the world instantaneously at home, ... ”

I took out the smartphone that most likely no longer work from my item bag.

“This could allow me to talk to anybody from around the world.” I proudly showed it to her.

Time is apparently paused within the item bag so the clock showed the exact time I came to this world but in exchange, the battery wasn’t reduced in the slightest.

I launched the camera app and tried taking Haru’s photo.

There seems to be a magic tool that stores images in this world as well but Haru could be said to be exaggeratedly shocked by the existence of the smartphone that could do so without magic.

After I finished using it, I kept it back in the magic bag. There’s a chance I might need to use it again for something else.

“It’s a world where a person can float in the sky or go to the moon.”

“They’ve been to the moon!? Master as well!?”

Haru was shocked by my claim that we could reach the moon.

“No, only chosen individuals can go to the moon, it’s a dream within a dream for a regular person like me. Yeah, I was a regular person. My parents passed away at a young age and I lived with my younger sister but I could not get hired for a job anywhere. Then, I died in an accident and met the Goddess. I’ve told Haru about my blessing but ... Haru, please look at my job.”

I wished for Haru to see my status. *(TL: Remember, you need to be a party member and the person have to allow the other person to view their status.)*

“Could you see it like that?”

“I’ll try. Status open·Ichinojo. Yes, I can see ... eh?”

Haru saw my job and was lost for words.

“Haru, can you see what is in my job field?”

” ... No, there’s nothing displayed. The job column is blank. Moreover, your status is extremely high. There’s the 「Skill Maniac」 title so I understand that you have organized your skills but is it capable of hiding your job as well?”

I see ... so Haru sees it like that.

Jobless ... without a job.

In other words, a job that can never be seen by others huh.

“My job is Jobless. Jobless Lv62.”

“Jobless ... the state when a person is just born and do not have any job? But if I’m not mistaken, Jobless should not give any status growth and you won’t be able to acquire any skills.”

“That’s only until Lv19. You’re able to learn skills from Lv20 onward. Furthermore, they are pretty amazing skills. This is the secret to my strength. According to the Goddess-sama, originally, this shouldn’t be possible. She asked me to keep quiet about it except to those precious to me.”

“Other than people precious to you ...”

“Yeah, I consider Haru as someone precious to me. Which is why I only plan to tell it to Haru. It’s tough for the person who shoulders the worry alone as well

as the person who is kept in the dark right? Of course, I do believe that there are some things that are better kept as secrets so I'm not saying that we should unconditionally tell each other everything."

Just as I was talking, there was a knock on the door.

Seems like the inn employee brought the hot water.

I opened the door and received the 2 tubs of hot water.

It was getting dark outside so I lighted the candle in the lamp as well.

"Haru, could you wipe my back?"

"Yes, master."

I took off my shirt and remained naked from waist up.

Then, I passed Haru the towel I purchased from Margaret-san's shop and sat on the floor with my back facing her.

I heard the sound of her soaking her hand in the hot water and the sound of a towel getting wrung before I felt the towel on my back.

Haru wiped my back in silence for awhile before she began to speak.

"Master ... in this world, once, heroes fought with demon lords, no, hume fought with demons."

"Yeah ... Demon Lord Familia was it?"

"Demon Lord Familis•Raritei."

Oh yeah, that was the name.

I had totally forgotten.

“The white wolf race takes pride in obeying the strong. In the past, during that war, the white wolf race was split into 2 factions. One side felt that, instead of serving the demons, it was better to follow the hero that appeared 13 years ago and they fought against the demons. Whereas, the other side ... idolised the demon lord’s strength and served the demon lord.”

Then, Haru once again washed the towel, wrung it and spoke.

“My father was the latter.”

That means ... now that I think about it, Haru mentioned that her parents served the court in the royal palace.

In other words, the place Haru was at was the demon lord’s castle?

” ... For the sin of serving under the Demon Lord Familis-sama, my father was executed. Then, 1 year ago, after an extended trial, it was decided that my mother was to be sentenced to life imprisonment and I was to be converted into a slave.”

“I see ...”

“I heard that I was purchased by Matthias-sama out of the consideration of the heroes ... I would have been treated poorly if I was sold to another country as a slave ... Then, I met Oregeru-sama 2 months after I became a slave.”

Oregeru is the eldest son of a baron house in this country and under his father’s command, he was in the midst of a journey to clear the beginner’s labyrinth across the land as training to raise his strength.

“I was rented by them to act as their guide for the beginner’s labyrinth. Because I had coincidentally just travelled to the beginner’s labyrinth together with other adventurers previously.”

Haru mentioned that nothing significant happened after that.

Escorting them as usual, Haru and Sebastan led the capture of the labyrinth and they presented a prayer to the Goddess statue.

Incidentally, the item bestowed upon Oregeru at that time was not a skill but a sponge.

As expected of Koshmar-sama, she can read the atmosphere.

“Oregeru-sama only announced that he wanted to redeem me after that. I declined then but he left saying that he would come again 10 months later when my freedom to choose ends. From then on, the adventurers found out that Oregeru-sama wishes to redeem me so none of them tried to rent me. They most likely feared that he would do something if something happened to me. Since Oregeru-sama’s father and Oregeru himself provides a lot of support to the Adventurers Guild.”

” ... I see, that sounds very tough.”

“Erm, what does master think of me?”

“What do you mean?”

“I served the demon lord-sama. Although it was when I was a child, I still served with all my heart. To be honest, it is second to master but I still revere demon lord-sama even now ... is master sure that you want a person like me to serve you?”

... So that was what was troubling Haru huh.

“Hmm, I may say this because I’ve never experienced any harm from the

demon lord but ... it doesn't really matter? Rather, I would hate those who badmouth their benefactor solely because the public hate their benefactor."

The hand wiping my back stopped ... and I heard sniffing.

" ... Haru?"

" ... No, it's nothing ... but, I feel blessed. I'm really happy to be able to serve master."

My back felt slightly tingly from Haru's feelings that were transmitted through my back.

Which was why, having Haru rub my back felt really good.

Then, not only my back, Haru also wiped my chest, abdomen, and armpit.

At that time, her eyes were red and swollen but an extremely charming smile was on her face.

Then ...

"Well then, shall I wipe Haru's back next?"

"Eh? Um, I can do it myself ..."

"I can't?"

"If it's alright with master then ..."

Haru turned her back toward me, took off her top and held her hair up.

Extremely beautiful fair skin was illuminated by the candle light.

Well then, I shall enjoy wiping her back.

I wonder if she will let me wipe her front later. I'll look forward to that for now.

(039) Night where we pressed shoulders together

After we finished having our dinner, I noticed that the candle was consumed surprisingly fast so I bought another candle.

Then, I returned to the room and maintained my equipment.

I properly maintained the steel sword but I also had to maintain the iron sword, goblin sword and the dagger I originally used for dismantling. It won't rust immediately because I place them in my item bag but I can't afford to not maintain them.

Haru, like me, also began to maintain her short sword.

"... Now that I think about it, although this iron sword and dagger's original owner were thieves, was it alright for us to arbitrarily take them? Thinking back, isn't that indisputably an act of thievery?"

"It is alright if the person who defeats the thief takes their belongings. However, I think that is not limited to only people with the Thief job."

"I see ... But, there was only 1 Thief in the whole thief band so it seems to be surprisingly hard to descend into the Thief job. Not all of the ones who threatened us in the day were Thieves as well." *(TL: He's referring to the people who wanted to steal their brown bear dismantled materials)*

"Yeah. Where the line is drawn is subtle but divine punishment does not descend promptly. For example, if you murder someone then you will descend into a Thief but if you have a legitimate reason then you won't descend. Just like how master did not become a Thief after killing those 2 thieves. All crimes are judged under the name of the Goddess of Ruling, Librans-sama. Librans-sama sees all."

She scrutinizes the crimes of every person in the world huh. So there are hardworking Goddess-sama unlike Goddess Torerul.

However, I'm lucky that stealing items from thieves is not considered a crime.

... Ah, I just recalled. Other than the sword and dagger, I also snatched a wooden box from the thieves den.

I had seriously forgotten. Because I collected the item when my adrenaline was still pumping.

Moreover, it was a filthy wooden box so I wasn't expecting much for the contents.

"Master, this wooden box was the one placed in the room Norn-sama was imprisoned right?"

"Yeah. I grabbed it on a whim but I forgot to check the contents."

I said and tried to open the lid of the box,

" ... Looks like it isn't a mimic."

No no, if it was a mimic monster then I wouldn't be able to store it into my item bag.

The worst case scenario would be if it was filled with the dirty laundry of the thieves but the wooden box was properly nailed together so the possibility of that was low. If it was trapped then I don't think it would be made to be so hard to open.

I slot a dagger in the gap under the lid and pried the lid open.

Then ... inside was,

“Stone?”

“It seems to be some kind of ore.”

A large amount of stone appeared. Unlike ordinary stone, a portion shined silver so it certainly looked like some kind of ore.

Right, I'll use 「Mineral Appraisal」.

As a result, I immediately got my answer.

【Mithril Ore: Ore containing Mithril Silver. The ability of a high-leveled Alchemist is required to smelt Mithril Silver.】

As expected, this world has Mithril. Since it's a gaming staple.

Judging by this, Orichalcum most likely exists as well.

However, there were completely no Mithril-type weapons sold in the weapon shop. Is it possible that it is a considerably rare item? I consulted Haru while thinking so but the reply was even more unfavorable than I had expected.

Mithril is certainly an ore that can craft valuable equipment.

However, a person must be a high-leveled Alchemist to smelt Mithril ores.

Moreover, processing the Mithril into weapons and armor once again requires a high-leveled Blacksmith.

Due to that, many countries monopolize the production process and they even monopolize the mines that produce Mithril.

Therefore, the selling price is equal to an unattainable sum. I don't know where the thieves snatched these Mithril ores from but they must have had a lot of trouble deciding on how to deal with it. It would have been a waste to throw it away but their means of exchanging it for gold was limited ...

If that's the case, my only choice is to become an Alchemist and Blacksmith myself and make my own weapons and armors.

So I'll have to temporarily fix Hammer-user and Apprentice Alchemist as my jobs for now.

Incidentally, I still am only able to make a few items as an Apprentice Alchemist.

I can purify tin, copper, iron, lead and zinc from ores and combine them as alloys.

Mithril equipment may seldom appear in the world but it's not like they totally do not exist so I might not garner suspicion if I possess them.

I'll change another of my job as well.

Let's become a Philanderer.

Job: Philanderer 【Commoner Lv30】

The outcome of remaining as a Commoner and not finding a job.

A Job that lets one learn slightly unusual skills.

Unique experience points acquisition condition: Joining bodies with the opposite sex

In other words, I plan to do that.

After finishing the maintenance for our weapons, I embraced Haru.

(TL: (◡‿◡))

Side Story

Then, there was another pair of man and woman hugging each other's shoulders.

It's Jofre and Elise who are wandering about in the forest.

" ... I'm hungry, Jofre."

"Yeah, since we have not had anything to eat since last night, Elise."

On the mountain, it was warm during the day but cold at night.

As the 2 did not prepare anything for the journey, obviously, once they finished their food supply and without any tools to start a fire, they both hugged each other to keep warm.

Looking at the grass-eating Centaur ... the name of the donkey they are surprisingly insistent on ... Jofre came up with a good idea.

"If Centaur can eat these grass, then can't we eat it too?"

"That's it, Jofre! We can definitely eat it!"

Naturally, it is not a theory that can work simply due to the difference in body functions. However, without realizing that it was not a good idea but a

misleading idea, just as the 2 of them attempted to eat the grass, Elise accidentally stepped on Centaur's tail.

The pain gave Centaur a shock and it began to run at a tremendous speed.

"Please wait, Centaur! We won't know what grass to eat if you are not here!"

"Please wait! Centaur!"

However, Centaur's speed did not decrease.

It raised its speed in an instant, but a rock wall appeared in front of its eyes.

It'll crash into it!

The 2 of them intuitively thought so, but then something happened.

Centaur's body slipped through that rock wall.

The 2 of them looked at each other and approached the wall.

Then, when they tried to touch the wall, the 2 of them noticed that it as not merely a wall.

The 2 of them once served in that thieves den for less than a day.

The wall there was exactly the same as this, an illusionary wall.

The 2 of them nod at each other and stepped toward the wall.

The ceiling was faintly glowing.

“Jofre, this ...”

“Yeah, it’s a labyrinth! Furthermore, it’s an undiscovered labyrinth! Amazing, it’s a huge find!”

“It’s amazing, Jofre! What should we name the labyrinth?”

“EliseJofre Labyrinth! Since we found this labyrinth because Elise is here.”

“That sounds great, EliseJofre Labyrinth! No, we found the labyrinth because Jofre is here.”

The 2 of them hugged, but Ichinojo was not there to stop them.

Then, the 2 of them only realized a little later.

The new labyrinth only had 1 room.

And a single sword was stuck in the middle of that room.

Incidentally, Centaur was munching on the grass growing within the labyrinth.

(040) Beginner's Luck/Cheating in the gambling parlour

The Philanderer job is a terrible job with high luck stat but every other stat is lower than that of the Commoner job.

The skill I confirmed this morning was also weird.

Flute player 【Philanderer Lv5】

Able to play magic flutes.

Can whistle well.

I gave it a try and tried to whistle, I see, I really can clearly distinguish between musical scales and dynamics.

Incidentally, magic flutes are a kind of magic tool that can apparently elevate the status of your allies if you blow it or conversely decrease the status of your enemies.

When I moved it to the separate page using 「Skill Organization」, it was moved under the section for equipment skills so it seems to be a skill that allows me to equip magic flutes.

As to why my Philanderer level increased, I'll leave it unsaid. The reason why the level increase gap was so small ... I'll also not talk about it. (TL: LOL! XD)

After we finished having our breakfast, I had tentatively planned to aim for

the labyrinth.

However, a serious problem occurred then.

According to Haru's 「Olfactory Sense」, she caught scent of Oregeru to the east of the main street, in other words, he was heading toward the direction of the labyrinth.

So, if we head to the east today, there's a chance we would bump into that plump noble.

Of course, the probability of encountering him is low since the town is large and we can travel using the back alleys, but I wish to avoid doing any unnecessary activities.

For that reason, we're heading toward the shops for now.

The labyrinth here is a 25-floor labyrinth without transfer circles so a round trip capture apparently takes about 5 hours.

Tentatively, I have bought preserved food and stored them in my item bag but I wish to purchase the food we want to eat today.

After walking for a little bit, we arrived at the slave dealership.

Quince, with tobacco ... no, a pipe in her mouth, was there. She was cleaning up with a broom.

“Good morning, Quince-san.”

“Hmm? Ah, yesterday's boy. What's up? Have you decided to buy a second slave?”

“No, we're just passing by ... erm, is Carol doing alright?”

Recalling how she said she wanted to die yesterday, I inadvertently asked.

It's not like I intend to do something after I hear about it and to Carol, it should be none of my concern.

"That child has work today since morning as well. She is actually highly popular. Especially among the high-level adventurers who hunt the monsters around the town."

Certainly, with such an ability to attract so many monsters, she would most likely be popular among adventurers with actual ability.

Although, I know the fate of those who misinterpret their own competence.

"If you 2 wish to hire that child for work then you should make a reservation now. Well, I don't recommend purchasing her though."

"Is it entirely due to her ability?"

"Yeah. Since you can't have her stay in a room that is not airtight at night. But, she would suffocate if you lock her in a sealed box. You'll have to prepare a sealed room with a certain width but a normal inn won't have such a room. Furthermore, that child can't enter the labyrinth in the town. If she enters the labyrinth and the pheromone is blown out the town by the wind, the monsters would be attracted to the town. Don't you think that would be a disaster?"

It's true that the labyrinth is located on the outskirts of town so there's a high chance she will attract monsters.

The anguish she feels from obtaining an undesired ability most likely far surpasses my imagination.

While I was thinking about Carol's case, Quince blew smoke onto my face.

I unconsciously choked on it.

“What’s wrong what’s wrong, such a dark expression. It’s not like it is your responsibility. Rather, you should be glad that you could safely bring Carol back. So, where are you 2 headed? Surely you’re not heading toward the gambling parlour during the daytime? By law, you can no longer redeem your chips with gold so I totally have no intention of going there.”

“Eh? What do you do with it if you can’t change the chips to gold?”

“You exchange them with items. Those who still want to change it to gold no matter what exchange for items with high conversion values like those with gold or precious gems but you’ll still lose a margin through the intermediary conversion. So I don’t recommend it.”

... Isn’t that similar to how casinos in games work?

“Furthermore, to participate in the gambling, you must purchase medals. The tax for medals is 25%.”

“Eh? The tax cost a quarter of the price?”

“That’s right. Though, everyone should know about it. In other words, even before you join in the gambling, you start with a loss of 25%. Well, even so, the gambling parlour is state-owned so it’s not as terrible as those run by illegal guilds in other towns.”

After that, Quince continued chatting with us while sweeping.

She was talking to me but I felt that she wasn’t only looking at me but was watching the town as well.

She was observing the flow of people and goods. I unconsciously thought that it was the behaviour of exceptional merchants.

I felt bad to be too much of a hindrance so I thanked her and left.

Then, I once again continued walking.

“Hey, Haru, I want to go to the gambling parlour, is it alright with you.”

“The gambling parlour? But as mentioned by Quince-sama it’s not really recommended ... ah, for that?”

“Yeah, it’s for that.”

” ... But, is it really okay?”

Haru once again confirmed with me.

My goal was not to enjoy gambling but to pay the taxes and level up my Commoner job.

In contrast, the fact that she once again confirmed with me meant that she saw through my intentions.

About redeeming Carol.

“Carol might be unwilling, but she is who she is and she’s needed by a lot of people.”

” ... Is that so.”

“Leaving that aside, I wonder what’s there at the gambling parlour. It’s got to be dice after all, right?”

There were odd-even dice games set up, though I don’t know which side is odd which side is even. *(TL: Cho-han dice game is a traditional Japanese gambling dice game where the dealer shakes 2 standard six-sided dices in a cup and overturns it onto the floor. The players then bet on whether the sum of the dice faces is odd or even.)*

“Apparently, it is mainly cards and roulette but the magic tool machines called slot machines seem to be popular lately.”

” ... There’re slot machines as well huh.”

If so, although it might be false rumours, I set Philanderer and Hunter as my job and raise my luck stat.

Naturally, I didn’t forget to set Commoner as my job as well.

The gambling parlour was right next to the statue of Torerul.

Built luxuriously like a certain museum and theatre, it took my breath away.

It had tighter security even compared to the town entrance and there was a vast gambling facility there after we dove into the door.

There was an atrium at the center and I could tell that there was a second and third floor.

“Welcome, customer. Is this your first time here?”

As expected, even though there weren’t any bunny girls, a skimpily-dressed red-haired lady welcomed us.

“Ah yes.”

“If that’s the case, this way please.”

We were brought to the counter.

Within the gambling parlour, they used medals exclusively.

It cost 100 sense for 75 white medals. Basically, 1 sense = 1 medal but 25 medals worth was collected as tax.

A blue medal equals to 10 white medals; a yellow medal equals to 100 white medals; a green medal equals to 1000 white medals; a red medal equals to 10,000 white medals; a black medal equals to 100,000 white medals, so, in other words, a single black medal equals to 10 gold coins huh.

What an indescribably extravagant medal.

Exchange of item is possible starting from 1 medal. *(TL: Author didn't specify the medal type)*

The second floor and above is exclusively for VIPs and apparently only those with more than 10 black medals can enter.

I guess that's where the high-rollers gamble.

"Well then, for now, please give me 400 sense worth."

I said and handed over 4 silver coins.

Then, I was given 30 blue medals.

【Ichinojo Level up】

Nice, Commoner leveled up by 2 to become Lv38.

Shall we play with this amount today?

... Ah, shit.

I had forgotten something important.

"Are those items for the item exchange?"

I stared at a certain item on the shelf.

“Yes, that’s right. Would you like to exchange something?”

“Then, 1 scarf please. The one for 1 blue medal.”

“Thank you. Would you like it to be wrapped?”

“No, I’ll take it as it is.”

I received the red scarf and wound it around Haru’s neck.

It precisely covered the slave collar.

“Sorry, I wasn’t attentive.”

“No it’s alright, thank you, but is it okay for me to have such an expensive item?”

“Nah, they’re medals that are going to disappear anyway. It’s better if it is exchanged for something concrete. Here, Haru’s medals, let’s have some fun together today.”

I passed 10 blue medals to Haru.

” ... Thank you. I will definitely increase it!”

” ... No, there’s no need to be in such high spirits. Let’s play leisurely.”

Tentatively, we decided upon a place and time to meet and began by exploring separately.

Maybe I’ll casually play a few rounds, casually lose some and we’ll watch a play or something at the theatre within the gambling parlour with the remaining medals.

Thinking so, I went toward the slots corner.

Regarding card games played in casinos, I only know poker and black jack but my knowledge of them is only to the extent of playing together with my friends.

I'm not really interested in roulette.

Standing in front of the slots corner, I first tried to observe the people playing.

Doing so, I noticed that percentage-wise, more Philanderers were winning big compared to the people holding regular jobs.

So the effect of luck is more prominent in slots huh.

However, there were Philanderers who lost as well so it's not a guaranteed event.

Slots is a kind of game where a person inserts 1 to 3 medals and can increase their medals by getting matching patterns.

Instead of the usual buttons on those machines in game centres, it seems here, one only have to pull a lever.

Looks like there are machines that support white, blue and yellow medals though.

Three yellow medals, in other words, 30000 yen a round. Who would play such a game? *(TL: About 300 USD)*

Or so I thought but in actual fact, there were a number of people seated there.

They look rich judging from their appearances but even they can't go to the VIP area huh.

For the time being, I exchanged a blue medal for 10 white medals at the slots reception desk.

After inserting 3 white medals, the lights for 3 lanes lit up.

I pulled the lever next to me.

Apparently, it's good if the '7's line up but naturally, it's not so easy to hit that, I only lined up 3 watermelons. (TL: *"only"*)

Within 10 seconds from starting, my 3 white medals had instantaneously become 100 white medals.

However, I only thought that it was beginner's luck.

The following 20 rounds, I only hit 1 small win so my medals were all swallowed up and I thought that it really was a case of beginner's luck.

Yup, I was only lucky at the start.

However, during the 22nd, 23rd and 24th rounds, I consecutively won and without noticing, my medals had exceeded 600.

The attention I was getting from the surroundings was getting troublesome so I exchanged the white medals for yellow medals.

A once in a lifetime gamble using 3 yellow medals ... it's 30000 yen ... I wondered what items could I exchange for using 3 yellow medals.

A gamble using 30000 yen, if it was the previous me in Japan, I wouldn't have believed it.

Though Miri was gambling using yen in the billions for investment, I wonder if she possesses a heart of steel?

I ended up thinking about that.

Then, the slots drum spun and stopped.

The '7's didn't stop on any.

In exchange ... those symbols aligned.

Plums.

Ten yellow medals came out.

Well, that's all a luck stat of 88 can do huh.

I subconsciously thought what if '7's suddenly aligned and I won 100000 yen, I would have been totally overjoyed.

Well then, I wonder how is Haru doing?

There was still some time before the gathering time we set so Haru was not at the gathering place yet.

Hmm, if I was Haru, I could have tracked Haru using Haru's nose.

While thinking incoherent thoughts, I walked around the gambling parlour and noticed a crowd around a roulette table.

Then ... seated at that roulette table was Haru with a large amount of medals piled up.

(041) Haru's Roulette

Personally, I don't quite know the rules for roulette but I'll try explaining.

Roulette is made up of holes with the numbers ranging from 1 to 36 in red and black as well as 0 and 00 green holes for a total of 38 holes where the ball can fall into. If the hole the ball falls into is the same as the place you bet on then you can earn a certain amount.

For example, if you bet on red, there's a 9/19 chance that it hits and the chip amount you bet would be doubled. If the ball falls into the black or green holes then your bet is forfeited.

In cases where you bet on the numbers, if the ball falls on the same number you bet on then you earn 36 times the bet you placed.

In short, it is a game where the bookmaker definitely wins if the game continues normally. Furthermore, professional dealers can control the strength they toss the ball to make it fall to the location he prefers so there's even less hope for the player to win.

That's how the rule is supposed to be.

The roulette spun and the ball began to move on the spinning panel ... at the same time, Haru moved.

She placed the chips ... however, it was not on red or black or odd number or even number.

She placed the chips on 13, 36, 24, 3, and 15, 5 places at once.

“Pl, please stop your bets.”

After the dealer declared so, you can no longer move your chips.

I wonder why did she choose those number?

I looked at the roulette as I thought that and I noticed that the numbers were clumped together.

The numbers on the roulette are assigned in a scattered manner.

And, the numbers 13, 36, 24, 3, and 15 were aligned in sequence on the roulette panel.

In other words, Haru predicted that the ball would fall around the number 24 and then, the ball fell slightly out of her prediction but it did fall into the number 3 hole.

“Ama, amazing, that’s 7 consecutive hits with this.”

“Can she really read the movement of the ball!? The panel is spinning you know!?”

“There’s no way that can be true, that is impossible even for the winged race who boast the best dynamic vision among all the races.”

The clamour from the audience couldn’t stop.

Hey hey, 7 consecutive correct choices?

By selecting 5 numbers, given 36 times profit, it is virtually multiplying her chips by 7 times and that happened 7 times consecutively.

” ... Haru.”

“Master, I let you see a disgraceful sight. The shameful behaviour of choosing 5 numbers instead of accurately reading the movement of the ball.”

... What do you mean by shameful behaviour?

” ... Incidentally, how many medals do you have right now?”

“Just in case, I didn’t use all the medals for betting and the upper limit for roulette is 1 green medal so I have about 12 red medals. I have some green medals as well.”

” ... I see, good job.”

As I pat Haru’s head, I think she slightly overdid it.

If she continues, she would be mistaken for cheating, no, she’s already sufficiently cheating.

“How did master do in the slots?”

“How did you know that I was at the slot machines?”

“Because I could detect master’s scent from the slots corner.”

... Looks like Haru’s nose is in top form today as well.

“About 13 yellow medals.”

“To increase your medals to such an amount just through the slot machines that only rely on luck, as expected of master.”

... No no, I can only hear it as irony when she’s the one saying it.

For now, it seems like we can use the medals to order food so it might be slightly early but maybe we should have our lunch?

Right at the moment I was having that thought,

“Oh my, that roulette play just now was splendid.”

A man with a smile that looked like it was plastered on his face waved his arms greatly as he walked over.

“I am Gorsa, the boss of this casino.”

Shit, was she really mistaken to have cheated?

But we’ve not done anything wrong.

I only used the slots normally and Haru only normally (?) predicted the movement of the roulette ball.

However, perhaps he noticed I was wary, the man shook his head,

“No no, I merely would love to escort the 2 of you to the 2nd floor VIP seats. Originally, it is only a place where a person who had earned 10 black medals can enter but after seeing the skills of miss white wolf, I’d love to have a match with her.”

“I’d like to politely decline.”

I briefly declined.

“Why, could I ask for the reason?”

“We’re amateurs who has just visit the gambling parlour for the first time

today. I don't believe we can win against you, the owner of this shop."

"No no, I am only the store manager in name ..."

What store manager in name only. I can clearly see you know.

【Gambler: Lv39】

Currently, I do not know how and what to do to become a gambler.

However, he is clearly a professional on that path. Neither do I know what skills he possesses.

We wouldn't notice even if he cheats.

Nevertheless, it's scary to leave them thinking that we've cheated. Since we might get stabbed from behind.

" ... Gorsa-san, leaving that aside, I'd like to ask something, is Gorsa-san able to exchange for such an item using your authority?"

I said and chuckled.

※ ※ ※

"Haru, sorry, your earnings were reduced significantly."

"Don't worry, I slightly overdid it as well."

In the end, we only had 3 red medals and a couple white medals remaining on hand together with 100,000 sense.

The casino owner's office.

There, we had our meal.

I was eating soft tender meat while Haru was eating tough meat.

They recommended wine as well but of course, I refused. Since it would be disastrous if I let Haru drink.

“I’m sorry for the trouble Gorsa-san, not only did we make you travel multiple round trips for us, you even treat us to lunch.”

“No, it’s a great help to me so there’s no problem but is it really alright?”

“Yeah, it helps me greatly as well.”

He prepared items with high liquidity for the 12 red medals ... or rather he made an exception and prepared items with a 100% conversion ratio.

I converted that to gold at the gold exchange next to the casino (it was actually through the back).

It was worth 1.2 million sense, 120 gold coins or a substantial 120 million yen and I exchanged that amount for medals.

Thus, it became 9 red medals.

I then immediately exchanged that for items and converted it into gold.

Then, I once again exchanged and converted.

By repeating that process, I was left with 3 red medals and a couple white medals.

If I do so, the gambling parlour won’t profit and only the tax they have to pay increases, but as this is a state-owned gambling parlour, the more tax they contribute, the greater the support they get from the country (in terms of law and regulations instead of financially) so it is better than simply letting me take an item and leave.

That is pretty much the proposal that the gambling parlour accepted from me.

So, why did I do such a thing?

The answer is even simpler.

It was to drastically raise my Commoner level.

Now, my Commoner level has been raised to an unbelievable Lv72.

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Commoner skill: 「Yell」 obtained】

【Job: Magic Journalist is now available】

【Job: Apprentice Practitioner is now available】

【Commoner skill: 「Yell」 skill has leveled up to 「Yell II」】

Like this.

「Yell」 is a skill that raises the status of my companions when I use it.

However, the user will not be able to use magic when he is in the midst of using the skill.

Job: Magic Journalist【Commoner Lv50】

By consuming MP, the user can create documents using magic.

Those documents will possess special powers.

Unique experience points acquisition condition: Creating contract documents

Job: Apprentice Practitioner【Commoner Lv60】

The user is able to use simple healing magic.

A job with a significant gain in magic defence stat.

Unique experience points acquisition condition: Using healing magic.

The Magic Journalist seems interesting as well. Listening to Haru's explanations, it sounds like this world's version of a judicial scrivener. *(TL: Judicial scrivener is a legal profession in [Japan](#) and [South Korea](#). Judicial scriveners assist clients in commercial and real estate registration procedures and in the preparation of documents for [litigation](#).)*

Apparently, it is a job with reasonably high income.

Apprentice Practitioner is the exclusive profession for healing magic.

A healer job similar to white magicians or monks. *(TL: I think he's referring to game professions not those really present in the world)*

In this world, the low-grade potions are sold at reasonably cheap prices but there are very little of those capable of using healing magic which give instantaneous effects so treatment fees seem to be crazily expensive.

“Even so, to think that you can really achieve 100% hits ... so roulette has such a flaw huh?” (Ichinojo)

Using a small-scale reserve roulette inside the office, I tried to test Haru and she completely hit every time by relying on the 5 number strategy.

“No, I'm still far from perfect, I still have to rely on 5 numbers. If it's the person who taught me this method, he would be able to hit with a single number just by relying on the dealer's hand and finger movement.” (Haru)

“That’s frightening. I would not want to have such a person as my opponent ... well then, Haru-sama, shall we have one last round?” (Gorsa) “Yes.” (Haru)

Gorsa threw the ball.

After Haru called out the 5 numbers she predicted, it happened. The ball suddenly jumped and fell onto the 00 position opposite of Haru’s predicted zone.

“Looks like the last match belong to me. I don’t know about your circumstances but do enjoy your gambles.” (Gorsa) ” ... I got to see something interesting in the end. Thank you.” (Haru)

Haru said her thanks.

I guess this was Gorsa’s gratitude as well as warning.

A warning from Gorsa saying that if you’re thinking of earning money through gambling, someday the ball will jump and you will lose everything.

And then, to teach us that was Gorsa’s way of conveying his gratitude.

I thanked him for the meal and left the office.

“Well then, shall we exchange for some items and head for the labyrinth? Haru, what would you like to exchange?”

“No, it is originally master’s money so please use it for yourself, master. This scarf I received from master is sufficient for me.”

” ... Though I knew Haru would definitely say that ...”

Even though the money is credited to the account under my name, it was earned by Miri so I won’t use it.

It's the same reasoning.

This money was earned by Haru so I believe Haru should use it.

However, if it's like this, Haru would never use it.

If so, then the solution is simple.

Just continue to stare at the item list at the item exchange counter,

"Excuse me, this please."

I pointed at the item within the catalogue and handed over 3 red medals.

The female receptionist appeared with the item.

A brooch adorned with a green jewel.

Named as the Wind Brooch, it not only possesses resistance toward wind-attribute attacks, it also has the effect of increasing speed.

"... Haru, I will be relying on you from now onward as well."

I attached the brooch to Haru's chest.

As I said that, I was disgusted with myself for presenting Haru with a present using the money she earned.

But, Haru's delighted expression ... no, looking at the tail's movement below her skirt, the loathing I had toward myself became better.

That's how it felt.

“Thank you, master ... even in exchange for my life, I will definitely meet master’s expectations.”

Like I’ve said, Haru always gives such exaggerated replies.

(042) Attack of the Worm

All things considered, the Commoner's status gain is seriously bad.

Even though I gained more than 30 levels, the status growth rate only feels slightly more than when I reached Lv30 from Lv20. Well, I did reach Lv70 so I am modestly stronger but I guess it's the limit of a Commoner.

I assigned my jobs in a balanced fashion with Jobless, Swordsman, Apprentice Practitioner, Magician, and Pugilist.

Within the casino, we could exchange food and bento in addition to items in exchange for medals so we used a fraction of the medals to get dinner before we headed toward the labyrinth.

The Baron's house eldest son, Oregeru's smell indicated that he went to the east and have not returned but it didn't seem like he was close by.

However, because a west wind was blowing at the moment and we were upwind, we couldn't grasp his exact location.

Well, if we enter the labyrinth, even if Oregeru is in the labyrinth as well, there are plenty of places to hide so we most likely won't encounter him. I thought so as we headed east but,

"Oh my god, monsters are heading toward the town!"

"It's a herd of wool worms! The wall's going to be breached, call the guards! Those who can fight, head to the east!"

A monster herd!?

Haru and I looked at each other and nodded before we ran toward the east.

Along the way, we passed by what looked like the stairs indicating the entrance to the labyrinth but we passed by that and climbed up the ladder on the stone wall.

There I saw several hundred worms the size of medium-sized dogs.

Then, those caterpillars spat out threads and were creating paths to climb up the wall.

Multiple adventurers and soldier-like men were fighting but the situation didn't look good.

Adventurers were atop the wall as well, piercing and defeating the caterpillars that climbed up but if this continued, the monsters would definitely pour into the town.

Without hesitating, I leaped off the top of the wall and “「Slash」”, sent out 「Slash」 using my knife hand toward 2 of the caterpillars spitting out thread.

The caterpillar heads burst and green mucous splashed onto the surroundings.

Seeing an adventurer surrounded by caterpillars, I sent a 「Petite Fire」 toward those caterpillars and unsheathed my steel sword hanging on my waist. I do possess the skill for dual-wielding but I felt that it was easier to fight with a single sword.

Glancing at Haru, she was not only dextrously manipulating both the Fang of the Fire Dragon and the short sword, she was also making use of the special

ability of the Fang of the Fire Dragon to create flames using physical attack power, releasing balls of flames to distant places with caterpillars that were far enough from the forest such that it won't catch the forest on fire.

It looks like an amazing ability to judge as well as technique is required to use magic while wielding swords.

Maybe I'll stick to defeating them one by one.

I defeated a portion of the caterpillars surrounding the adventurer with 「Petite Fire」 but there was still a large number of them.

For now, I went toward the encirclement of caterpillars and used 「Rotational Slash」. Using a low angled sweep of 「Rotational Slash」, the caterpillars belched out green bodily fluids and collapsed. Those fluids stuck onto my face as well so, to be honest, I was in a mental state of wanting to enter a bath immediately.

“Ma, young master.”

The adventurer I saved called out. Looking closely, isn't he one of the adventurers who wanted to steal the brown bears from us? His feet was wounded though ... *(TL: From his rotational slash lol.)*

” ... My help harmed you.”

I honestly muttered.

“That's not true, young master! Either way, with young master here, it's like we have the strength of a 100 men!”

“Leaving that aside, what's the reason for this?”

As I slashed at the surrounding wool worms, I asked about what was happening.

“I don’t know, the herd of wool worms suddenly attacked. We were on our way to the labyrinth but ... wool worms are monsters that spit out yarn-like thread, they generally do not leave their nests and don’t attack people, people gather old nests and use them as a replacement for wool.”

I see, so that’s why they’re called wool worms huh.

“Then, you don’t know the reason why ... 「Petite Stone」 ... the wool worms suddenly went on a rampage?”

I hit the wool worms climbing up the wall with gravel made by earth magic as I spoke.

Adventurers and soldiers were gathering on top of the wall so it no longer looked like the wall would be breached.

The moment I thought so, the wool worms movement stopped and they all fled toward the forests at once.

Did they realize that they couldn’t win?

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Apprentice Practitioner skill: 「Healing Magic」 obtained】

【Pugilist skill: 「Fist Attack」has skilled up to 「Fist Attack II」】

Oh, I learned healing magic. Apprentice Practitioner Lv7 huh.

The magic I acquired is 「Petite Heal」 ... hmm, maybe I’ll give it a try.

“Hey, don’t move.”

I sheathed my sword and approached the man with the injured leg.

“「Petite Heal」 !”

I chanted the spell.

When I did so, a pale light was emitted from my hands.

When that pale light touched the wound, the wound slowly sealed and 10 seconds later, the injury was completely gone.

「Petite Heal」 can’t be used on people away from me, the healing was quicker than potions but it was not instantaneous, and I can’t do area healing ... huh.

【Ichinojo Level up】

Oops, that should be for Apprentice Practitioner. Lv8 huh.

“Ama, amazing, it’s the first time I’ve experience healing magic, so it is capable of showing effect so quickly huh ... wait, leaving that aside, young master, you can use healing magic!? Don’t tell me, you’re a noble-sama!?”

“There’s no way I’m a noble ... rather, why did you link the use of healing magic with nobles?”

“Young master, you don’t know? There are a lot of people among nobles who can use healing magic.”

I had no idea of such a thing.

Well, nobles are wealthy so they can raise their Commoner level by changing job to Commoner and pay taxes, becoming Apprentice Practitioners. Wait, if a large sum of money is required to be treated using said healing magic, then the gap between the rich and the poor would widen even further.

A disparate society is scary.

Speaking of nobles, that Oregeru most likely went to the labyrinth after all. Since we didn't pass him by when we were on our way here.

"Master, are you alright?"

"Yeah, Haru?"

"Thanks to the wind brooch master gave me, I don't even have a single scratch."

"I see ..."

But, Haru's hair was quite dirty.

I've got to quickly wipe it off.

"Hey, there are buckets used to store water on the wall right! Please lend me 1! I'll prepare the water myself so just throw me the bucket."

I asked of the adventurers on the wall for the wooden buckets most likely prepared for fires.

The adventurer immediately replied and threw a bucket over.

“「Petite Water」”

I sent a mass of water flying directly above.

The mass of water flew out with great force but could not defy gravity and came falling down.

“「Petite Fire」”

The water crashed into the flames.

Even though it's high-temperature flames, it was just for an instant. Without turning the water into steam, the water fell down.

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Magician skill: 「Wind Magic」has skilled up to 「Wind Magic II」】

Oh, it's lucky that my level went up. Looks like I learnt 「Wind」 magic.

Then, the water fell into the bucket. Though, half of it was spilled.

“I've warmed it slightly but it should be better than just water ... Haru here, towel. Wipe your hair, face and wherever it feels disgusting. I'll wipe myself also.”

“Thank you, master.”

We wiped the sticky green goo off ourselves with the towels.

We'll have to properly maintain our armour and swords later too.

“Young master, can I have it too?”

“You will have to wait until the end.”

“I’m fine with being last. Thank you.”

As we were wiping the green fluids off ourselves, the adventurers descended from the wall and began recovering the defeated wool worms.

Unlike regular dismantling, you need to remove the thread from wool worms when dismantling them. That work is customarily done by the Textile Guild.

In addition to the money from selling the wool worms, it seems like the town would give out rewards as well. We received an explanation that it will be divided among the people who participated in the battle. In particular, the 10 people who dropped down to fight, including me and Haru, will be generously paid.

Normally, for large-scale party combat like these, non-adventurers like me would not receive the reward for exterminating the monsters and my reward would only be to wholesale the monsters that I hunted myself but, because I’m in a party together with Haru, she received my part of the rewards. Looks like the painful system called Jobless is still going strong.

Well, in these kind of situations, people apart from adventurers and soldiers seldom fight with the monsters so there’s most likely not been much discontent and grumbling.

When I explained that I wasn’t an adventurer, the man beside me oddly said “Eh, young master is not an adventurer? You’re a noble in incognito after all.” but I ignored him.

“Putting all things aside, I wonder why did the monsters attack ...”

When I muttered so, I thought of something unlikely.

“Haru! Can you detect Carol’s smell?”

” ... Yes!”

Don’t tell me, Carol was brought into the labyrinth!?

If that happened, the instant she entered the labyrinth, her Temptress skill would be triggered and her monster-attracting pheromones would be released from her body. The monsters approached due to the smell ... such a thing is not impossible right?

Then, the monsters left when Carol left the labyrinth, or that she entered deep enough such that the smell doesn’t leak out anymore.

If it’s the latter, then the same thing would happen once again when Carol’s on her way out of the labyrinth.

(043) Monster-less Labyrinth

Haru and I climbed up the wall using a rope ladder lowered at a place not obstructed by any of the threads and leaped off the wall at once into the town.

Then, we ran until we reached the labyrinth.

“Haru, how is it!?”

“Just as Master had deduced, Carol-san’s smell continues into the labyrinth. Also, there’s no scent indicating that she had left so the possibility is high that she is still within!”

“Guh, why? She should know that this would happen if she enters the labyrinth.”

She releases a pheromone that attracts monsters at night or whenever she steps underground where light can’t reach.

The interior of a labyrinth is no exception.

However, how exactly did she enter the labyrinth?

The Carol’s condition should be quite well known in this town. I can’t imagine that the soldiers on the lookout at the labyrinth would overlook her.

“Hey ... you, how long have you been on the lookout here?”

“Who are you?”

“Did Carol pass by here?”

“That brat isn’t in the labyrinth.”

The man was feigning ignorance.

The fact that he instinctively thought that the girl named Carol I was referring to was a child (even though she is 16 years old) is one suspicious point.

In addition, even though I asked “Did she pass by here?”, the fact that he declared that “She’s not in the labyrinth” is another suspicious point.

Keeping Carol’s unique ability in mind, she should not be inside the labyrinth so, normally, the person should have assumed that I was asking if she passed by the thoroughfare in front.

So suspicious, or rather, this guy definitely knew very well that Carol is a Temptress and how disastrous it would be if she entered the labyrinth but still let her pass. But, why did he do so?

“It must have been because she was together with Oregeru-sama.”

” !?”

At Haru’s remark, the male gatekeeper’s complexion instantly paled. That’s definitely an act of confirmation.

An easily understood man on par with Haru’s tail.

“Yeah, that’s right. It was an order from noble-sama, I don’t want to imagine what would happen if I refused him. Noble-sama said that he would dive deep underground in an instant and there wouldn’t be any problems but I was thinking that it was bad when I heard that a herd of wool worms was attacking from the east. He dived into the labyrinth with the butler-like man Sebastan and Carol about an hour ago.”

” ... I see.”

It was about after I had finished cashing out the gambling parlour's medals to raise my Commoner experience points and we were in the midst of having our meal. They were most likely making preparations for entering the labyrinth before then.

If that's the case, there a chance that they have already advanced considerably deep ... no, they are together with Carol who attracts monsters so it should be easy to catch up to them.

"Haru, Oregeru is inside so it's better if you stay here ..."

"No, master. You won't be able to trace Carol-san's scent without me around."

"It's fine if I don't track them, I can rendezvous with them at the underground 3rd floor. If I forcibly use wind magic to produce upwind at the labyrinth entrance when Carol comes out, the pheromones should not leak out right?"

" ... This labyrinth has multiple stairs that lead downward so there's a chance you might pass them by."

The soldier guarding the labyrinth told me.

I was told that the Beginner's Labyrinth in Florence only had stairs at a single location so I was certain that it was the case here as well.

"Master, I'll be alright so we should hurry."

" ... Very well, we'll go together until we're close to Carol and then I can make a guess on Carol's whereabouts using the movements of the monsters ... hopefully, that will work."

"Yes, master."

Then, we entered into the labyrinth.

Within the labyrinth, the walls were earth-coloured and the ceiling glowed faintly ... the labyrinth in Florence appeared around the same but the number of forked paths was greater than that in the Beginner's Labyrinth. It seemed like a place that would be easy to get lost in without Haru around.

However, she advanced forward without hesitation ... it wasn't the shortest route but she surely picked the path that Carol had chosen to thread.

Without even reaching the 5-minute mark, we found the stairs leading to the 2nd floor.

It was a 25 floors-deep labyrinth so, at this pace, we would probably take at most 2 hours to be able to catch up to them.

There was another condition as to why this pace was possible.

"There aren't any monsters at all huh."

"... Probably, Carol's skill attracted all monsters in the vicinity and Sebastian-san defeated them all."

"Oregeru's aim is leveling up huh ... I wonder what kind of job is Noble."

"I heard that it is a job that is capable of changing into the highest-grade jobs like Paladin and Holy Sorcerer. However, the condition is that a person needs to be a Noble and be a Lv50 Knight to become a Paladin or a Lv50 Sorcerer to become a Holy Sorcerer."

That's quite a strict requirement for a job. In addition, it seems like Nobles are able to change job into Apprentice Swordsman and Apprentice Magician right upon birth.

That's quite a privilege to be able to change job without leveling up their Commoner level.

However, in my heart, the higher job above Noble are not those but,

“Is it possible to change job into Royalty?”

I thought. It’s an amateurish thinking but Nobles should be able to rank up into Royalty.

Elaborating on that thought, I imagined that the Noble job would rise through Baron, Viscount, Earl, Marquis and Duke before becoming Royalty, converting into jobs like King or Emperor. Though, as a Baron’s son, Oregeru’s job is **【Noble】**, so most likely the difference between Baron and Viscount isn’t related to jobs. When I murmured that, Haru frowned.

“Master, other than those recognized by Goddess-sama, Royalty are born to the royal family and Nobles are not capable of changing job into Royalty. If somebody overheard you saying that outside, you could be punished for blasphemy.”

” ... Is that so.”

That’s scary ... blasphemy just by talking about it.

This is a society whereby the Nobles are born among the nobility and the gap between the poor and the rich and the difference in standing can’t be overcome.

Furthermore, the existence of law and administrative jobs solely available to nobles to change job into like the Senior Judge or Senior Political Advisor further informed me of the superiority of the nobles in this world.

... But, something’s strange. I would be convinced if this setup that overly favoured the nobles was a rule made by the nobles, but the ones who constructed the jobs are not humans but a higher being ... probably the Goddesses?

I don't understand why they would support the nobles to such an extent.

To be honest, looking at Oregeru, I feel that nobles put on an air of importance but they don't appear distinguished to me.

I don't feel like their character is particularly outstanding nor is their strength particularly notable.

If he had the strength, he could have just challenged Haru to a duel and win to redeem her.

... Eh?

I unintentionally thought of a question.

"Come to think of it, Oregeru wanted to buy Haru right?"

"... Yes, that's right."

"Then, why didn't Oregeru set up a proxy? He could have had the proxy fight with Haru and after the proxy wins against Haru, have the proxy transfer the right of ownership to him so that he can be Haru's master? I believe a noble should be capable of something like that."

Haru is certainly strong but it's not like she possesses inhuman strength.

I don't see a reason why a noble wouldn't do so with his amount of influence.

Well, it's a different story if the power of a Baron is lower than what I have in mind. The peerage of a Baron is the lowest among nobility after all.

"... That ... sorry, I've never considered that."

"I see ... maybe ... Oregeru himself didn't think of it."

But, even if it didn't cross his mind, I feel that his attendant Sebastan would have thought of it.

Or was it that he wasn't really that interested in Haru.

If that's the case, maybe he has already forgotten about Haru's appearance? Maybe he happened to want to purchase Haru on a whim and have already forgotten about it but the people around him are the ones kicking up a fuss?"

"If that's the case then there's no need for us to worry but ... Haru, is the scent still ahead?"

We descended the 10th-floor steps and arrived at the 11th floor.

However, a single monster has yet to appear.

"Yes, it's still ahead ... it's alright as long as they have not delved until the 24th floor."

"What's there at the 24th floor?"

"According to what I've heard, the 24th-floor monsters is the minotaur. In exchange for a wider area, the interval in which monsters appear is very short and the monsters have high HP so it takes time to defeat them even if you are capable of defeating them."

"I see, so it's fine if 1 or 2 appear but it would be troublesome if all the minotaurs on the floor head toward them."

"Yes, let's hurry!"

... To me, it doesn't matter at all whether Oregeru lives or dies.

However, it's definitely not right for Carol to have to go through the feeling of

regret if he dies.

Recalling her eyes that wished for her own death, I hastened my steps.

Side Story

" ... Good morning Elise. It's a great morning."

" ... Good morning Jofre. It's a great morning."

One in the afternoon. At a time that is by no means morning, the 2 people woke up.

"At any rate, we sure slept well."

"I had a great rest ... I immediately became sleepy after eating that mushroom."

The 2 of them, within the undiscovered labyrinth, found 2 mushrooms that grew there and ate them along with grass together with Centaur.

The 2 were unaware that the mushroom was a highly poisonous mushroom but the 2 was also unaware that the grass they ate along with it was an antidote as well.

As a result, they were miraculously not poisoned and successfully replenished their stomachs with nutrients.

However, the antidote was only incapable of neutralising the sleep-inducing component of the highly poisonous mushroom which was why they ended up falling asleep.

Incidentally, no antidote grass remained. Centaur had eaten it all.

“Hey Elise, I’ve been curious about it since yesterday, this sword ... there are words written on the back.”

“Ah, there really are. There are words written in white.”

【This sword functions as a seal for a wicked person, one must never touch it. One must never attempt to pull it out.】

That was what was written.

By no means is the literacy rate in this world high, but the 2 of them seemed like they could properly read the words and were lost in thought.

“I wonder what does the ‘wicked person’ mean?”

“Hmm, maybe a devil?”

“A sealed devil huh ... to be sealed means to be trapped within right?”

“There’s a devil within the sword?”

“It sure seems cramped. In the past, I was confined in a storeroom but I definitely do not want to experience that again.”

“I feel sorry for the devil.”

... The 2 people nodded.

The thought going on in their minds, was to rescue the poor devil.

“Well then, I’ll pull it out ...”

“Be careful Jofre.”

“Leave it to me! I can even properly greet it if the devil comes out!”

“My, my dress is slightly dirty but that won’t offend the devil right?”

“Don’t worry, Elise is a beauty no matter what you wear.”

“Jofre is handsome no matter what he wears too.”

The 2 of them were acting affectionate towards one another as usual but they prioritised helping the poor devil in front of them.

Dust had built up on the sword but Jofre gripped the handle and attempted to pull.

But, the dust on the surface scattered up when he grasped it, irritating his nose.

“Ah ... ah ... achoo!”

At the same time as his sneezed, he shoved the sword into the pedestal.

It happened then.

The wall with characters written on it cracked in two and a small room appeared in the back.

“What’s that?”

Jofre released the sword and moved toward the open wall, catching sight of 2 items placed there.

One of the items was a bag.

“Jofre, that’s an item bag.”

“Serious! Isn’t it a super rare item! Furthermore, it looks like an unused item, see, the beads can go in.”

“Eh? Ah, my item can’t enter.”

Jofre was delighted when the marbles placed beside the item bag could enter it while Elise was looking disappointed when her whip was repelled by the item bag. They didn't even spare a smidgen of thought that they could have made a killing by selling the item bag while it was still unused.

"Elise, it doesn't matter. What belongs to me belongs to you. We can just both use it together."

"That's right Jofre. I was wrong."

Then, the 2 of them said "Leaving this aside" and looked at the sword. They had to save the poor devil.

Having that thought, Jofre once again grasped the handle.

"Well then, here I go Elise!"

"Yes, Jofre!"

The moment Jofre pulled the sword out ... the floor disappeared.

""Eh?""

The next instant, Jofre, Elise and Centaur, 2 people and a donkey fell towards the depths of the abyss.

Jofre had unconsciously chosen the correct choice but then ultimately made the wrong decision.

10 seconds later, only the pedestal and the sword remained in the labyrinth.

However, the role of this labyrinth had already ended. The seal of the wicked had already unravelled.

(044) 24th-floor Minotaur

Two pairs of footsteps resounded in short intervals at the labyrinth's 22nd floor.

Footsteps from Haru and I.

Without coming across even a single monster, we ran at full speed.

Discovering the 23rd-floor stairs, we descended.

"We're approaching the scent. It seems like as of now Carol-san is still with Oregeru-sama."

"... There might be a high possibility that Carol and the others have already reached the 24th-floor."

"Also, master, it's faint but there's the smell of blood ... I fear it's likely that Sebastan-sama was wounded here."

Sebastan as in that level 49 Combat Butler old gentleman huh.

Unlike during solo hunting, if he has to protect Oregeru while fighting, it's not surprising to be injured.

However, even though Sebastan, his sole lifeline, was injured, Oregeru didn't withdraw?

I can't say that's a normal judgement.

"Oregeru is a noble right? I heard that there are many among nobles who can use healing magic but he can't?"

“I’ve never seen him use it before nor have I heard that he can wield it.”

“I see ...”

With their lifeline Sebastan injured, we can’t afford to waste time.

We’ll have to quickly look for the stairs leading to the 24th-floor.

The 24th-floor is 5 times wider than the 23rd floor and the monsters are said to spawn at 20 times the normal speed but with a system that doesn’t increase the number of monsters after a certain number is reached. That was what Haru heard from the weapon shop yesterday.

“There’s the stairs, let’s go ... wait!”

I discovered the stairs that continued onto the 24th-floor but I stopped Haru. I felt some presence at the end of the stairs.

It’s thanks to the 「Presence Detection」skill of the Hunter.

There was a single presence and it was approaching the end of the stairs.

Then, when it directly reached the bottom of the stairs, it went away in the opposite direction.

It’s most likely a monster.

“Please stay here Haru, I’ll secretly chase that monster.”

“Master, I will also ...”

“It’ll be troublesome if Oregeru sees you. Please return to the inn, Haru. I’ll be alright.”

After saying so, I unsheathed my steel sword and left by descending down the stairs.

With her strength, let alone the virtually non-existent number of monsters, her life shouldn't be in danger in this labyrinth.

This labyrinth is said to be of intermediate difficulty after all.

After I arrived at the 24th-floor, I searched for the previous presence and chased after it.

There is the presence of 3 people where the monster is headed ... there's a high chance that Carol is there.

According to the presence, the monster is just pass the corner ahead.

When I peeked out the corner ... a gigantic cowman was there.

It was a brown cow with 2 splendid horns standing on 2 feet. In addition, it wore armor that looked like it was made of cowhide and it held a huge axe.

Minotaur ... Haru said that's the name of the opponent.

It was a name that I've heard of even when I was in Japan.

It's a half cow half human monster that appears in Greek mythologies.

Furthermore, the legends told of a vast labyrinth that served to confine the minotaur such that it could never leave.

I see, thinking about it that way, minotaurs are intrinsic to labyrinths.

If I believe in what the Goddess said, minotaurs are originally from this world and they transmitted it to my world through ancient Europe mythology. The minotaurs that appear in Greece mythology on earth are monsters with human

bodies and cow heads but the minotaurs here are pretty much all cow.

Well, the variant here is easier for me to fight with though.

However, it's a monster that exceeds a height of 2.5 meters.

It's horns were almost scraping the ceiling.

The minotaur didn't look like it noticed my presence as it continued forward. Along the way, I saw the stairs leading to the 25th-floor but it rushed past it. It further turned at a T-intersection ahead.

I was just about to secretly follow it from behind when another minotaur appeared ahead. It seems like it's true that their numbers are great.

I saw that minotaur reach the T-intersection and turn the same corner as the previous minotaur. What I saw after running forward ... was a large congestion of minotaurs.

What's happening?

I heard a loud voice like a bellow just as I had that thought.

"They're here again! Sebastan! Quickly defeat them!"

It seems like Sebastan is currently fighting.

The number of minotaurs was too large such that I could not see if there were others apart from the 3 of them but at the very least, Oregeru and Sebastan are alright.

In addition, the fact that the monsters are being attracted means that Carol is alright too.

“Oregeru-sama, even I am reaching my limit soon!”

Sebastian cried out weakly. Looks like I’ll have to help them soon.

“Let’s kill the slave after all! If we do so, the approaching minotaurs will no longer increase!”

..... !?

Did Sebastian just say to kill Carol?

True, that will prevent any more monsters from coming but what selfish people.

“Hey, I’m here to help!”

I cried out, pulling my sword from its sheath,

“「Slash」!”

and shouted, releasing a vacuum wave of sword art. But ... so hard!

The 「Slash」tore a couple 10 cm into the minotaur’s abdomen but it wasn’t a fatal wound.

The minotaur that suffered from a large wound in its flank deemed me as an enemy and held its axe up as it approached.

If that’s the case, I switched my jobs to the physical attack specialised jobs 「Jobless・Swordsman・Apprentice Swordsman・Pugilist・Hunter」.

My current physical attack was now about 3 times that of a Lv20 Swordsman so if there are enemies that I can't defeat, this would no longer be an intermediate level labyrinth.

The minotaur raised its axe slightly above its head toward the ceiling ... and swung it down.

But, that attack was clearly slow. The narrow labyrinth was an unfavourable terrain for minotaurs.

My sword was quicker than the minotaur's axe and it tore through its abdomen.

This time, it was a fatal wound as the minotaur fell to its knees and its appearance turned into smoke.

A magic stone and cow horns remained, as well as lumps of meat.

... Looks like it will be beef bowl tonight.

"I just defeated one! I'll immediately come to help so hang on!"

"Oh, I don't know who you are but I'm indebted! Quickly come and rescue me!"

What a bossy guy.

I felt like waiting until Oregeru got himself killed by the minotaurs but the 2 of them would kill Carol before that happened.

"Yeah wait a moment, I'll immediately end this!"

I shouted out and aimed for the remaining minotaurs as I ran forward.

(045) Battle with the Minotaur

The minotaur was buried with a single blow from 「Slash」.

I verified the number of enemies.

There's 8 of them left huh.

Reinforcements might come if I don't end it swiftly so I fought at full power without warning.

A minotaur swung its axe downward but I leapt to the side, kicked the wall and cleaved through its side with my sword.

The steel sword had a better cutting edge compared to the iron sword but the minotaur's meat is thick. It felt like my sword would be lodged within the meat if my attack was done poorly.

Even if I had the power, it felt like the sword's cutting edge can't keep up with my physical body.

They may say that a good workman doesn't blame his tools but I have not reached the stage of being a splendid workman after all, so I still wish for a sword with a better cutting edge. Recalling my battle with the brown bears, I sure was courageous to attempt a 「Rotational Slash」 with the sword.

If that's the case ... this time, I'll rely on my own 2 arms.

I stored the sword in my item bag and leapt high up into the air.

Then, I kicked the ceiling and passed in between the 2 horns on the top of a minotaur's head.

I grabbed the minotaur's 2 horns just as I passed them by.

While maintaining my grip on the 2 horns, I planted my feet on the back of the minotaur.

Then, I forcibly pulled the horns, as if to throw the minotaur ... but before that could happen, the 2 horns snapped with a cracking sound.

Looks like I used too much force.

The snapping of the horns must have been considerably painful, given the scream-like roar from the minotaur. I replied with "I'll return them" and stabbed the 2 horns into its back.

While I was in the midst of doing so, another minotaur swung its axe up towards me. I kicked the back of the minotaur pierced with the horns and grasped at the handle of the falling axe. However, I could not stop the downward swing of the axe and the axe struck the minotaur with broken horns ... annihilating it.

My experience points ... what am I saying in the midst of battle.

While grasping the handle of the axe, I looked at the facial features of the minotaur.

The minotaur looked extremely terrifying up close but I didn't think that they were as scary after fighting them.

That composure most likely came from my status.

The minotaur swung its axe making it seem as if I was about to be shaken off but,

"「Petite Thunder」!"

When the lightning magic bathed the minotaur's hand, the minotaur reflexively released its grip. That magic attack was weak (although, it was

around the attack power of an ordinary magician) so it succeeded in stunning it but it could not deal the killing blow. That's because if I had killed it, the minotaur's axe would have disappeared as well.

I ignored the minotaur I stole the axe from and charged into the center of the remaining minotaurs.

The surrounding 4 minotaurs attempted to attack me with their axes but that caused their torsos to be wide open.

I wouldn't be troubled if anything happens to this axe.

“「Rotational Slash」!”

The axe was hefty so the sword slash ... no, the axe slash was slow, but even so, that single attack dissected the surrounding 4 minotaurs.

I've certainly have become stronger.

Looking at the end of the passage, Sebastan, with an injury to his arm, was being forced into a corner by his 2 minotaur opponents while Oregeru and Carol were behind him.

Looks like it's only the 3 of them.

I peppered the 2 minotaurs, full of openings due to their fight with Sebastan, with knife hand *Slashes* and defeated them.

However, that wasn't the end.

“I don't know who you are or where you come from but I thank you for

helping us when we were in danger ..." (Oregeru) "Leave the thanks till later! Hurry, if we don't move quickly, new opponents will arrive!" (Ichinojo) "That's right, Oregeru-sama, let us quickly return to the 23rd floor." (Sebastian) "Alright, we'll present you with rewards later. Let's hurry, follow me Sebastian, Carol." (Oregeru)

After saying so, Oregeru ran ahead with Sebastian following behind as well as Carol.

Sebastian appeared to have injured his leg as well as he was moving slightly slower.

We moved with Oregeru in the lead.

" ... Carol, are you injured?"

She didn't appear to have any large external wounds but I asked just to be safe.

I was more worried as to whether Oregeru treated her badly.

"Carol is fine ... Oregeru-sama protected me."

"Oregeru did?"

"When we were surrounded by monsters, Sebastian-sama said to kill Carol to stop the monsters from approaching. But, Oregeru-sama stopped him."

" ... Is that so ... "

That's unexpected, I thought that he was the type to see her die without helping to save himself before anything else.

Did he consider that Carol still had some utility, or is he a lolicon? (*TL: Lolicon = pedophile*)

No, Carol is 16 years old while Oregeru is about 14 or 15, so Carol is the older

one. So puzzling.

Along the way, I collected the fallen magic stones and minotaur horns as well as dealt the final blow to the minotaur that had fainted due to 「Petite Thunder」.

But ... it's strange.

My level isn't rising ... has the combat not ended?

At that moment, I noticed the presence of enemies.

“Stop, there are signs of enemies ahead!”

I shouted. But it was too late.

A new minotaur appeared from the T-intersection and swung at Oregeru with its axe.

I won't make it ... it's even more impossible for Sebastan who suffered from an injury to the leg.

“U, uwaaaaaa!”

Oregeru screamed ... but the next instant, a shadow wrapped around Oregeru, appeared in front of him and stopped the axe with 2 short swords.

It was Haru.

Even though I told her to return to the inn.

Maybe she was worried about me.

“Ha ... so it’s Haurvatat.”

Oregeru looked like he remembered Haru’s appearance but he muttered in a tone of disbelief.

“Yeah, it’s been a long time Oregeru-sama.”

Haru flung flame out of the Fang of the Fire Dragon and showered the minotaur’s eyes.

“You ... you’re helping me once again.”

While sitting on his rear, Oregeru muttered toward Haru with words filled with hopelessness.

“I, once again, can’t win against you.”

... I moved in front of Oregeru as he spoke in despair and beat up the minotaur.

However ... more minotaurs were coming from the passage ... this is bad.

“Let’s head to the 25th floor for now. If it’s the boss room, the odour from Carol-san’s skill won’t leak out!” (Haru) “Understood, Sebastan, you’ll be in charge of Oregeru, Haru, take care of Carol! I’ll defend the stairs!”

I thought of cutting a path through to the 23rd floor in a single go, but there

were minotaurs attacking from behind as well, so it looked like it would be difficult for Haru and me to defend everyone.

I'll keep the minotaurs approaching from the front away until everyone descends down the stairs ... gathering my resolve, I ran into the minotaur herd.

(046) Mysterious presence at the back of the boss room

After ensuring that everyone had descended the stairs, I followed suit.

I defeated 10 minotaurs but it didn't look like the numbers decreased at all. The number of reinforcements surpassed it.

Furthermore, there were minotaurs approaching from the opposite direction so I would suffer a pincer attack if I had remained there.

I quickly descended the stairs.

... Wait, the minotaurs are chasing me down the stairs!

Seriously? Even though labyrinth monsters usually don't move to different floors ... no, this just shows how potent Carol's ability is.

Stepping onto the 25th floor, it was a wide room with a boss room at the back.

"Everyone, enter the boss room! 「Slash」!"

I aimed for the right foot of the minotaur behind me and released a 「Slash」.

The minotaur that lost its right foot collapsed in the middle of the stairs, blocking the path of the minotaurs behind.

With Haru and Sebastan in the lead, Oregeru and Carol followed behind and entered the boss room.

Then, the boss room began to close.

... Make ittttt!

I slipped through the closing door with a dive.

It was by the distance of a hair, my mantle would have definitely been caught by the door if I had worn a mantle.

With this, the minotaurs won't be able to chase us ... eh?

"The boss is a minotaur as well?"

Within the room with a high ceiling, there was a 5 meter tall golden furred huge minotaur.

It snorted wildly as it looked toward here ... no, rather than toward here, it looked downward toward Carol.

Carol's skill is effective toward this guy as well?

"It's a King Minotaur."

"Is it strong?"

" ... Yes."

" ... Then, I'll defeat it ... the boss room won't open even if we defeat it right?"

"Yes, unless we open the door from within, the door will not open until the time for the boss to reappear. It's a system where, at that time, if all the members leave the boss room, tentatively close the door and reopen it, the

boss will be there again.”

So it’s a mechanism that disallows a monopoly of the boss by remaining inside.

Or rather, it’s about time I defeat the boss so that I can catch my breath in peace.

I’ve been fighting all the way so I’ve most likely accumulated quite a lot of experience points.

I believe I’ll be able to somehow deal with the minotaur horde if I become stronger.

... Nevertheless, since just now, Oregeru have been glaring at me all the time ... I guess the fact that I’m Haru’s owner has been exposed.

Looks like there’ll be trouble even if we escape from the labyrinth.

Nevertheless, for now, I should defeat the King Minotaur.

Firstly, I’ll put some distance between me and the others before I attack ... it happened while I was having that thought.

Oregeru rushed the King Minotaur on his own.

Wielding the bladeless gold sword.

“Ready yourself, King Minotaur! I, Oregeru Robutti, heir to/eldest son of Sir Eric Robutti of the Kingdom of Arundel, will be your opponent!”

That shitty idiotic aristocrat! What is he thinking!?

Oregeru's sword ... struck the King Minotaur's weak point, its shin ... it didn't pierce or slash, it merely struck.

Even though it was its weak point. The King Minotaur glared at Oregeru and swung the huge axe that it was wielding toward Oregeru.

"Oregeru-sama!"

Despite his leg injury, Sebastan moved at an unimaginable speed to stand in front of Oregeru and received the axe with his back.

"Sebastan!"

Oregeru called the name of his butler ... but Sebastan did not reply.

Even if he lives, it is clearly a severe injury.

Intending to deal the final blow to the 2 of them, the King Minotaur once again raised its axe.

"「Slash」!"

My 「Slash」 struck the King Minotaur's arm, preventing the follow-up attack. Blood was overflowing from the King Minotaur's arm.

We'll have to quickly treat ... I'll conclude the battle now!

I made a large leap from the side and sent out a kick at full strength toward its temporal region.

The gigantic body of the King Minotaur collapsed sideways.

Then, I pulled out a sword from my item bag and used it to pierce the neck of the King Minotaur.

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Jobless skill: 「2nd Job Setting II」 obtained】

【Swordsman skill: 「Swordsmanship Strengthening (small)」has skilled up to「Swordsmanship Strengthening (medium)」】

【Apprentice Swordsman skill: 「Sword Deterioration Prevention」 obtained】

【There are no further levels for Apprentice Swordsman】

【Title: Peak of Apprentice Swordsman obtained】

【Pugilist skill: 「Physical Attack Strengthening (minor)」has skilled up to「Physical Attack Strengthening (small)」】

【Hunter skill: 「Presence Detection」has skilled up to「Presence Detection II」】

【Job: Dismantler is now available】

A lot of it piqued my interest but as of now, Sebastan's treatment takes precedence.

“Sebastan, Sebastan, hang in there!”

Oregeru was shaking Sebastan's body but that would cause his condition to worsen!

“Move, I'll treat him! 「Petite Heal」!”

After sending Oregeru flying, I changed my jobs to Jobless, Apprentice

Magician, Magician, Apprentice Alchemist and Apprentice Practitioner, jobs with high magic defence and began treatment.

The wound gradually sealed but Sebastan's complexion was pale.

Even though it's a game-like world, it's not a game so just sealing the wound won't make everything okay.

He clearly lacks blood.

"We've got to take him to the hospital for blood transfusion ..."

But, how?

Who will carry Sebastan?

If Haru or I carry him, the combat personnel will be reduced. I don't know if we will be able to escape if we do so.

"Carol will be the decoy. Everyone, please escape when Carol attracts the monsters away." (Carol)

I guess that's the only option. With Carol's ability, the monsters shouldn't attack her.

If that's the case, after we escape separately ...

" ... no."

But, Oregeru said that.

"With the Temptress skill, the Temptress will not be attacked ... that's

because the monsters view the Temptress as an attractive opposite sex. In the beginning, the monsters will encircle her, followed by courtship. Then, ultimately, the monsters will attack her ... If this was above ground, the sun would rise before that could happen but this is a labyrinth, before she can escape to the surface, she would be dragged to their den.”

“Then, how about if Carol and I escape first? If we do so ... hmm?”

I looked toward the back of the boss room.

There was a door.

“Hey, that’s the room where the Goddess statue lies right?”

I asked to confirm before continuing.

“I sense the presence of 3 individuals ... is there somebody else here?”

“That can’t be. If there’s somebody in the Goddess room, the boss won’t appear.”

” ... But, there’s clearly 3 presences. Perhaps, there’s another entrance? If that’s the case, we might be able to escape from there ...”

I held on to a sliver of hope, but, while remaining vigilant, the door to the Goddess statue opened.

The ones there were ...

” ... Why the heck are you all here.”

The individuals there were Jofre and Elise, as well as the donkey they purchased.

The 2 people and 1 animal were carefreely dozing off in front of the Goddess statue.

Even though there's no other entrance to the Goddess statue room ... they, why ... no, how did they come here?

At the very least, they shouldn't be a match for a King Minotaur.

(047) Torerul's Roulette

The statue of a twin-tailed young girl with a sleepy look ... Torerul-sama's Goddess statue sure is an exquisite structure as usual.

It doesn't have a single fragment of majesty.

While attempting to wake Jofre and Elise who were sleeping around the statue,

"Are they your companions?"

"No, just acquaintances."

Oregeru asked and I answered with that.

They are neither companions nor friends ... I wanted to say that.

The 2 of them had not fainted, they seemed to be merely sleeping.

I slapped Jofre's cheek.

" ... Oi, wake up! Jofre!"

" ... That voice ... Rookie!? Sorry, looks like we are done for."

Jofre spoke with an unprecedented weak voice ... to think that this guy would say such a thing.

"What in the world happened?"

" ... My stomach."

“Stomach? What happened? Are you injured?”

No matter how I look at him, he doesn't look injured, is it a broken bone?

“I'm hungry.”

” ... We, since the day before yesterday we left town, we've only been eating mushrooms and grass.”

... Are they residents of some gag manga?

It won't be funny if they collapse and die in front of the labyrinth Goddess statue.

Well, it looks like it isn't a gag situation to the extent where they consumed poisonous mushrooms.

” ... If you're alright with preserved food, do you want some?”

When I was in Florence, I bought it to have a taste of being an adventurer but it wasn't very tasty.

To be honest, with an item bag, I don't have a need for it either way.

I took out food such as hard biscuits and salted fish as well as water stored in a wineskin bag from my item bag.

“Ooh, are you sure? Elise, you go ahead and eat first.”

“Is it really alright? No, Jofre, you eat first.”

“Just eat it together you two.” (Ichinojo)

An idiotic couple as usual. To the extent that I want to send a Slash flying their

way.

“Oh right, rookie, do you have something for Centaur too?” (Jofre) “Centaur is hungry too.” (Elise)

Centaur? Ah, the donkey’s name.

... They named him Centaur even though he’s a donkey?

Similar to minotaurs, aren’t centaurs mythological creatures with horse limbs and a human torso?

At the very least, I don’t think it’s a name that fits a donkey.

“For the time being, I’ve bought some vegetables ...”

Looking at Centaur sleeping with its rear facing my way, I thought of standing up but,

“Sorry Haru. Could you give this to Centaur.”

I said so and passed her carrots from my item bag. Haru didn’t particularly seem to mind it as she took the carrots and brought them in front of Centaur. At that moment, without standing up, Centaur only shifted its head toward the carrot and chomped.

When riding the carriage, I feigned ignorance but the other party is a donkey so it is still scary after all.

Since I’ve been killed by horses once, I don’t ever want to approach any horse-like monsters.

Though, I don’t think I’ll be killed if a horse kicked me now.

But, there's a saving grace. If Centaur can carry Sebastan, we won't need to reduce our combat personnel.

However, we've gained 2 pieces of baggage (Jofre & Elise).

While I was looking at Haru feed Centaur the 3rd carrot, Oregeru called out to me from the side.

"You, what's your name."

"Ichinojo."

I answered for now. I was still thinking if I should use honorific speech to talk to this guy.

"I see ... Are you Haurvatat's owner?"

... So he has noticed after all.

"What would you do if that's the case?"

Kill me? Or make it such that I can't survive as an adventurer?

Try it if you can, I thought but,

"I simply think that you are suitable to be her owner."

Oregeru said so and looked at Haru.

” ... Didn’t you intend to buy Haru?”

“So you’ve heard from her. That’s right. When I got ahead of myself on my own in Florence’s labyrinth and was about to be killed by a goblin, Haurvatat rescued me.”

Looks like it was love at first sight. The magnificent figure of hers as she saved him must have seemed like the figure of Oregeru’s knight of dreams.

Oregeru thought that it would be a waste for her to stay as a slave so he wanted to redeem her to serve as a highly valued knight of his.

But, after hearing Haru’s purchase condition, Oregeru backed down.

“I worked hard training in swordsmanship and raising my level with the goal of one day becoming stronger than Haurvatat and redeeming her ... although, in the end, it did not bear fruit ... as a final struggle, I heard rumours about Carol and came to the labyrinth to train but, in the end, I was saved by Haurvatat once again. I attacked the King Minotaur to show Haurvatat that I’ve grown stronger ... but the end result can be seen here.”

Power leveling while relying on Carol and Sebastan ... certainly, Sebastan’s level has increased by 2 and Oregeru’s level has increased by 1. They were most likely quite reckless.

However ... this noble sure has excessively gone in circles.

“Seriously, so you attracted monsters to the town and placed Carol and Sebastan in harm’s way, what were you thinking? Moreover, to apply pressure on the Adventurers Guild so that Haru wouldn’t be purchased is too much no matter how you think about it.”

“Pressuring the Adventurers Guild? I’ve never done such a thing ... oh, I see.”

Oregeru denied and looked like he reached a revelation on his own.

“Either way, I did not pressure the Adventurers Guild nor do I object to Haurvatat serving you. It is mortifying, though.”

Ah, so this chubby fatty is more of an idiot than an evil person.

So the number of idiots have been raised to 3.

“By the way, Jofre, Elise, I want to ask you two, how did you all reach here?”

“Ah, we tried to help a devil and the floor retracted to become a slide.”

“We’ve slid down the slide the whole time until my butt hurts.”

“And, when we woke up, we realised that we had fallen here and the door could not be opened from inside so we slept because we were troubled.”

“The place we fell out of was blocked as well so we could not go back.”

I’m lost. I was lost since the part they tried to help a devil.

Anyway, so they reached here by falling.

Rather, we can’t return using that path ...

Well, it’s not like my expectations were high, looks like it is impossible to escape using another exit.

“For the time being, shall we dedicate a prayer to the statue of Torerul before we escape but have the 2 of you prayed?”

“Eh? What?”

“Like I’ve said, you’ve dedicated a prayer to the Goddess statue at the

deepest part of the labyrinth right?”

Jofre and Elise’s heads stopped turning for a moment,

“Eh? This is the deepest part of the labyrinth!?”

“The deepest part of the labyrinth we discovered?”

“There’s no way that’s the case. It’s the labyrinth in the town of Belasra.”
(Ichinojo)

They were despairing. Elise was muttering “It’s time to string a lie.”.

Where and how did they mistake a place to be an undiscovered labyrinth?

Anyway, I calmed myself and dedicated a prayer to the Goddess statue.

At that instant, similar to that time with Koshmar-sama, my consciousness became hazy...

When I came to, it was a pure white space.

Also, Torerul wasn’t present.

“Hey, Torerul-sama! Are you sleeping? Please come out!”

I cried out.

Six roulette platforms appeared.

There was a sign written with a name in the center of each of the roulette.

On each of the signs was written Ichinojo, Haurvatat, Jofre, Elise, Oregeru,

and Carol.

Then, there was one sheet of paper.

【I'm busy so do it for me】

... Oi!

Just how lazy is this Goddess-sama.

I also want to ask about Miri but ... I guess I can only look forward to that when I meet Koshmar-sama.

But, it sure is a serious responsibility for me to turn the roulette.

I guess I'll start with Oregeru's first. Since it's the one that doesn't matter the most.

I grasped the ball and threw it onto the roulette.

It spun round and round ... and fell ... on a green ... sponge.

... Sorry, Oregeru.

Ah, that's right, I have to raise my luck stat.

I swapped Apprentice Swordsman with Philanderer and tried again. *(TL: I guess he's referring to his main displayed job)*

Next would be Jofre and Elise.

Their good relationship showed here as well, their roulette were lined up side-by-side.

I threw both the roulette balls at the same time.

It spun round and round, both gradually falling into red squares ... furthermore, it fell into locations with characters shining silver.

【Rare Medal】

Ah, it's the rare medal that I have 4 of.

It might not be a skill but it looks like I pulled a hit.

Next would be Carol.

Her ball also fell into a red square, into 【1000 sense】. Hundred thousand yen huh ... thinking about it normally, I guess that's a hit as well.

Nevertheless, to not fall into black 4 times in a row, is my luck really that bad?

Then, next would be Haru ... or before that, I should do mine first.

I poured my strength into the ball and threw it onto the roulette. Thinking that a pro dealer would have been able to make it fall into the location they are aiming at. Fall into black, I prayed as the released ball ... splendidly fell into a black square.

Great, my sure win came in the 5th round!

Skill name is ... eh?

【Title: 「Labyrinth Conqueror」has skilled up to「Labyrinth Conqueror II」】

【Clear reward skill: Lifestyle magic obtained】

As you can tell from the system message, the ball fell into the Lifestyle magic slot.

Seems like a magic that doesn't look very usable. No, it's called lifestyle so it should be a magic that is useful in daily life but it most likely can't be used to escape from here.

Finally, I threw Haru's ball.

Haru's ball also fell into the black.

I've finally reached optimum technique. It's a shame that it's the last one.

Just as I approached the roulette to see the skill, my consciousness once again became hazy.

Seems like time is up ... I'm curious as to what Haru's skill was. It would be good if it is useful for us to escape from here.

With that thought, my consciousness was cast into darkness.

(048) The Right to Pursue Happiness

I was back beside the Goddess statue at the back of the boss room.

Changes occurred to all the members that were dedicating prayers.

Rare medals appeared in front of Jofre and Elise, 10 silver coins in front of Carol and a sponge in front of Oregeru.

I spoke,

“Haru, do you know about Lifestyle magic?”

I tried asking Haru but she didn't reply.

Instead, Oregaru replied.

“Lifestyle magic are magic necessary in terms of livelihood. If I remember correctly, you would be able to use purification (clean) magic at the beginning. It's likely to be magic that cleans your surroundings.”

” ... I see ... it won't be helpful for our escape ... oh right, Jofre, could you lend me the Friendship Ring? Also, I'd like some monster-repelling incense as well if you have them.”

“Ah, sure. As thanks for the food.”

Jofre bent down, extracted the Friendship Ring and incense that releases an odour that monsters dislike from his shoulder bag and passed them to me.

With these ...

“Haru ... can I have a moment?”

” !? Ah, yes, what is it?”

Haru was deep in thought about something but she was shocked when I tapped her shoulder and she asked me what I wanted.

“Please wear this Friendship Ring. Carol and I will exit the boss room first and attract the enemies. Five minutes after I leave, please lead everyone to escape to the 23rd floor.”

“But master, that’s dangerous. I’ll be the decoy ...”

“No, I’m the only person here capable of doing so. Haru, please believe in me. Jofre, Elise, please carry that old man there using Centaur. Oregeru is a noble after all so he might reward you if you escort him up to the surface.”

“Ah, understood, we’ll properly transport the reward goods until the surface!” (Jofre) “We’ll complete the task even if it breaks us.” (Elise)

The item to be transported is not the reward good but Sebastan though. But the mud ship that Elise mentioned is not wrong at all. It was a mud ship that makes the mud ship of the racoon dog in Kachi-kachi Yama pale in comparison. *(TL: Had to look that one up lol. It’s an old Japanese folklore. The phrase Elise used can be literally translated as “Leave the task to me for I am willing to ride a mud ship for it.”. As for the Kachi-kachi Yama racoon dog folklore, it’s about a racoon dog that was invited out by a rabbit to go fishing. The racoon dog was greedy and selected the larger mud ship made by the rabbit because it seemed like it could hold more fishes while the rabbit rode the smaller wooden ship. In the end the racoon dog’s mud ship disintegrated and it drowned. That’s just the last part of the whole story but it’s where the MC was referencing to. I think he’s implying that Elise and Jofre were being motivated by greed. You can read the whole story by googling Kachi-kachi Yama.)*

“Carol, ride on my back! We’ll breakthrough using force!”

” ... Yes.”

Carol hesitated and her facial expression darkened for a moment before she nodded and rode on my back, wrapping her arms around my neck.

So light ... just like Miri.

“Well then, let’s go.”

I crossed the boss room and opened the door with a kick.

The place there ... had turned into a minotaur’s lair.

... But ...

“「Slash」!”

I kicked with my feet and shouted out Slash.

A vertical vacuum blade extended out, 2 minotaurs were annihilated while another 1 suffered from a mortal injury.

A path opened up at the same time.

As expected, thanks to the considerable rise in level just now, my attack power has increased.

“Hold on to me tightly!”

The minotaurs were hesitating with their attacks, they know that the damage will extend to Carol if they attack me.

It didn't feel good to use Carol as a shield but this was my chance.

It can work if it's like this.

I kicked the minotaur with a single leg that was collapsed at the stairs as if hunkering down (The one I cut down before I entered the boss room) and kneed the minotaurs on the stairs in their chin, causing them to tumble down. Avoiding the falling minotaurs, I weaved left and right to dodge the subsequent minotaurs and broke through in one go.

We safely arrived at the 24th floor.

However, even here, minotaurs were overflowing from the left and right.

We'll reach the stairs to the 23rd floor if we go left. The frequency of appearance of minotaurs will decrease if we climb to the 23rd floor but that will cause the 23rd floor to no longer be a safe zone.

If that's the case, I began moving towards the right.

“Keep your head low!”

I cried out as I used the space between the 2 horns on a minotaur's head as footholds to jump horizontally and move ahead.

We barely cleared the ceiling, if Carol raised her head ever so slightly or if I had jumped even a slightest bit higher, Carol wouldn't have emerged safe and sound.

After kicking across 3 minotaur heads, I successfully dropped down to a place devoid of anyone.

Since we've reached here, the only thing left to do is to escape.

After letting loose a roundhouse kick Slash directed behind to keep them back, I started running on the 24th floor.

【Ichinojo Level up】

Most likely because I've reached a certain distance from the minotaurs chasing from behind, combat had ended and the level up call came.

【Philanderer skill: 「Dexterity UP (minor)」 obtained】

Geh, I left it as Philanderer. I'm happy that I acquired a skill that looks convenient but I'm surprised that I could defeat the minotaurs with a single blow. It seems like Apprentice Swordsman won't be able to level up anymore so I swapped Philanderer with Hammer-user.

“Erm ...”

“What is it?”

“Please leave Carol behind and escape! It's impossible for you to be able to escape on your own, let alone while being burdened by Carol.”

“Is that so? You've been watching right? If push comes to shove, I can forcibly break through.”

“The minotaurs until now were bewildered but in a short moment they will come to snatch Carol away by force. When that time comes, you won’t be able to escape safely.”

“It’s Ichinojo.”

I said.

“My name is Ichinojo. Please remember it.”

” ... Ichinojo-san, I’m Carol.”

“Why do you wish to die? Dying is scary you know?” *(TL: MC, the only person who can actually contest to that xD)*

Because I’ve died once. I’d rather not experience that a second time. Though, I’m still going to die one day.

As we were having that conversation, a single minotaur appeared from ahead.

Did it happen to respawn nearby to make up for the minotaur I defeated just now?

If it’s just one, I attacked with a foot Slash and the minotaur sank into the ground.

【Ichinojo Level up】

【Hammer-user skill: 「Hammer Equip」 obtained】

【Job: Apprentice Blacksmith is now available】

【Hammer-user skill: 「Concussive Strike」 obtained】*(TL: Literal translation is ‘Crown of the head Strike’ but that’s a bit too clunky so I changed it)*

Oh, I’m curious about a lot of them but of course, they’ll have to wait till later.

I continued running as I waited for Carol's reply.

"Carol's parents were killed by monsters."

" ... I see, but that's not unusual in this world ... or perhaps."

"Yes, it was during the night the day Carol's ability awakened."

So her parents died because of her own skill.

That's ... painful.

"Carol's parents were Peddlers. They borrowed gold from the Merchants Guild and conducted business. They were killed and the goods were damaged so Carol became a slave because Carol could not repay the loan. But, I still believe it is my punishment. But, I can no longer endure it. To hurt somebody else due to Carol's ability."

" ... Oh, Carol, I've not told Haru about this but both my parents are dead too. Due to an accident. When I was in high school ... ah, no, when I was still going to school. I was also the cause of that accident."

That's because, the day my parents died was my sister's birthday. *(TL: There's definitely going to be more to this story from Miri's side later)*

Father, mother and I decided to surprise Miri.

During the time I brought Miri out to play, my parents drove to the neighbouring town to buy a cake that Miri mentioned she wanted to eat previously.

As mother went to collect the cake, the plan was for father to go to the bookshop near the cake shop to buy a steam engine technical book that Miri wanted. Those plans were all made by me.

Then, along the way, my parents met with an accident and passed away.

That day, it should have been the best day for Miri but it became the worst day.

After that, I immediately dropped out of high school.

I believed that I did not deserve happiness. If I did not suggest the surprise party, my parents would not have died. That was what I thought.

But, Miri was angry when she found out that I had dropped out of school. Of course, I had no regrets but Miri was extremely angry and told me off.

“My little sister taught me that in my country, the most important law among the many laws was the constitution whereby, as long as it is not by unlawful means, everyone has the right to pursue happiness. It was from my sister who was still this young you know?”

I showed Carol Miri’s height at that time, about my waist height.

I still remember the words that Miri said at that time.

It was the exact clause of the 13th article in The Japanese Constitution.

All of the people shall be respected as individuals. Their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall, to the extent that it does not interfere with the public welfare, be the supreme consideration in legislation and in other governmental affairs.

I began with that.

Interfering with the public welfare, in other words, as long as you do not

inconvenience those around you, but considering that Carol's ability does cause trouble for those around her, I adjusted it to as long as she does not use it for evil means.

Until now, the only articles from The Japanese Constitution that I remember are Article 13 and the first line of Article 27. That's how deep the impression of Article 13 was left in me.

Because it was so unbelievable that my little sister who was still in primary school could fluently recite that clause from The Japanese Constitution. After that, I reread that clause countless times.

Incidentally, the first line in Article 27 is something fairly simple.

All people shall have the right and the obligation to work.

It was an obligation that I could not fulfil. Until now, I am still repenting for only pursuing the right but neglecting the obligation. It doesn't matter right now though.

“Therefore, it's alright for Onii to become happy. You're not a person who should not be allowed to pursue happiness, that's what my sister said to me. Carol's parents would definitely say the same thing ... If you still think that you should not be allowed to be happy ...”

I smiled showing my teeth and said.

“I'll forcibly make you happy. Carol, put this ring on any finger you like.”

I passed the Friendship Ring to Carol on my back and let her put it on.

“Status open, Carol.” *(TL: Carol’s name is slightly weird, Ichinojo calls her キャロ (lit: Kyaro) but the others like Oregeru calls her キャロル (lit: Kyaroru). The way Ichinojo calls her is like a nickname, since the name listed in her status page is Kyaroru.)*

I confirmed Carol’s status.

Name:	Carol	Race:	Half Mini-hume
Job:	Temptress Lv1		
HP:	15	MP:	20
Phy Atk:	4	Phy Def:	8
Mag Atk:	6	Mag Def:	5
Speed:	9	Luck:	10
【Equipment】			
Slave Collar	Hemp Clothes	Leather Shoes	
【Skills】			
None			
【Unique Skill】			
「Captivating Fragrance of the Moon」			
【Acquired Titles】			
「Labyrinth Conqueror」			
【Possible Job Changes】			
Commoner Lv3	Temptress Lv1		

Alright, party setting is done.

Then, I asked Carol to do something.

“Carol, look at your own status! This is Carol’s first step to happiness!”

(049) The Centaur who wishes to eat carrots

I ran while shouldering Carol.

My footsteps resounded across the labyrinth.

“Look ... at Carol’s ... status?”

“Yeah, take a look.”

“But, Carol’s status is ...”

“Doesn’t matter just take a look!”

I pressed with my voice and Carol reluctantly muttered “Status open” softly.

I have no eyes on the back of my head. Which is why I had no idea what expression she had on.

But, the hands around my neck weakened momentarily so I rotated my left hand to support her rear and grasped her hands with my right hand. It’s definitely not for the sake of groping her. It’s emergency measures. I’m definitely not enjoying the sensation of her butt ... the public eye would most likely look to me as if I’m making excuses and call me a lolicon, it does feel good to a certain extent but I have to say it beforehand that this is absolutely emergency measures.

“Carol, hold on properly!”

“Ah, yes!”

“I believe you understand after seeing it but you have lost all your power as a

Temptress so there's a chance we will be attacked by minotaurs."

" ... Erm, why has my job become Commoner!?"

"It's the blessings of the Goddess."

I lied with a smile. Or rather, the reason why I found out about the secret of Jobless skills was because of the Growth Cheat blessings from both the Goddesses so it's not a complete lie altogether.

"Just now, when I prayed to the Goddess Torerul-sama, I met the Goddess-sama. I discussed Carol's job with her and she told me that she would turn your job back to Commoner after 15 minutes."

Since I've come all this way, I might as well openly lie about it. Even though I lived with the belief of being stubbornly honest and on a path of sincerity when I was in Japan.

" ... Eh? With Torerul-sama!?"

"Yeah, properly thank her at the statue in the square after we return to town."

I willingly conceded my achievement to the Goddess-sama,

"Carol! What do you want to be?"

"Eh?"

"What do you want to be? Job-wise. You can change jobs since you've become a Commoner."

" ... Carol ... want to be a Peddler! Just like papa and mama! Then, I want to become a first-rate Merchant just like what papa and mama wanted to be!"

"That's great! Feels like it can work!"

“I can?”

“You can! I (still currently jobless) say so! Without a doubt!”

Within my heart, I tsukkomi-ed myself with “Only I don’t have the right to say words like that”.

Since I have not escaped from being Jobless until now.

“If that’s the case, we’ll have to raise your Commoner level up to 10! Hang on to me tightly!”

I said so as I turned a corner.

In front of our eyes was a minotaur with its back facing us.

“I’ll be sending minotaurs flying with kicks until we reach the stairs!”

I further increased my running speed. The minotaur was just ahead.

While kicking the minotaur, I said to Carol.

“Carol! Live! Live and find happiness! I will also become happy!”

I felt that ... Carol gave a small nod behind me.

※ ※ ※

By the time we reached the 23rd floor, I had defeated 3 minotaurs and Carol’s Commoner job reached Lv10.

As expected, it will be hard to use the Goddess-sama excuse if her job changes to Peddler here.

Then, when we returned to the stairs leading to the 23rd floor and ascended it, Haru and the others were waiting for us.

“Master, I’m glad that you are safe.”

“Well, it was easy. I’ll tell everyone beforehand, thanks to Torerul-sama’s blessing, Carol’s job was changed to Commoner just now. At the same time, her unique skill has disappeared so there’s no worry that the monsters will gather.”

I weaved a lie as if it was a matter of course.

Everyone looked like they believed the words ‘Goddess’s blessing’ but it seemed like only Haru noticed the truth.

“Leaving that aside, let’s quickly return to town. We’ll have to quickly treat Sebastan ... we’ll use the monster-repelling incense to return.”

I lit the monster-repelling incense and ascended the labyrinth.

Carol also dismounted from my back.

” ... Haru, what’s wrong? Your complexion does not look good, is the skill from the roulette the reason?”

“N, no. The skill I obtained was the 「Forgery Appraisal」 skill that allows me to identify if an item is counterfeit or genuine.”

I see ... it might not be attractive to Haru but it’s quite a useful skill.

Then, the reason why Haru’s acting strange is something else?

What is it exactly?

" ... Master switched Carol from Temptress after master ascended to the 24th floor right?"

"Yeah, that's right?"

"That monster-repelling incense is also a genuine item ..."

"Yeah, it looks genuine."

" ... Then why wasn't that Centaur-san attracted due to Carol-san's skill? Furthermore, it doesn't look like it hates the monster-repelling incense. Centaur-san is a slow donkey ... they are easily attached to humans but they should still be listed as monsters."

... That seems to be true after she mentioned it.

Centaur was the only one who did not approach Carol.

Why was it exactly?

I looked at Centaur and,

"Oi, Centaur, it's not that way!"

"No Centaur, you can't just eat grass."

Centaur was ignoring the directions from Jofre and Elise and was wholeheartedly eating the grass growing within the labyrinth.

Its action does not even spell out the M in mysterious.

"Isn't it just because its nose is clogged up?"

"... That might be true."

We stopped thinking about Centaur anymore than that.

It won't be a problem even if we leave it alone.

No, no amount of time would be enough if we let it wander on its own.

I took out a goblin staff, string, and carrot from my item bag and did some handicraft. The final product was a staff that extends ahead of Centaur's head with a carrot dangling from above. It was easy to move the staff left to right.

Centaur began to move forward in attempt to eat the carrot dangling in front of it.

Great, it's successful.

This is absolutely not animal cruelty, it is dangerous to remain in the labyrinth so it's an emergency measure.

While thinking of excuses for animal welfare organizations, we aimed to leave the labyrinth.

(050) Crossing thoughts within a small head

Author's note:

- *Ichinojo & Miri's p.o.v. are in 1st person.*
- *Other people's p.o.v. (Mainly in Side Stories) are in 3rd person.*

When we reached the outside of the labyrinth, we aimed for the Herbalist shop at full speed.

I heard along the way that blood transfusion is only done in the capital city of this country.

They prepare dedicated slaves for the sake of drawing blood and directly draw blood for transfusions ... there were even times when the blood was drawn until the slaves died.

It's a heart-wrenching story but apparently, only criminal slaves who had committed serious crimes are chosen.

Looks like there aren't blood packs in this world.

For that reason, to increase blood, the best method would be to drink blood-forming medication made by Herbalists.

Apparently, it is a perishable medication so most adventurers don't carry it on them.

We carried Sebastan until within the Herbalist Guild facility.

Confirming his condition ... along with Oregeru's dressing, a big-shot rushed over, immediately prescribed herbs and began treatment.

As we saw Sebastan getting carried off to the back of the room,

“I’m terribly indebted. This is a gift from me.”

He said as he passed a small bag full of coins to me.

” ... I’ll gracefully accept.”

Since half of it belongs to Jofre and Elise.

“Yup, I’ll be troubled if you don’t. Haurvatat, I pray for your good health ... also, I will someday become even stronger. When that time comes, I hope to have a match once.”

“It’s good to become stronger but try not to inconvenience the people around you okay.”

“Yup, I’ll bear that in mind.”

I’m uneasy as to whether he really got it or not but he’s not that bad a person after all.

Then, I was asked to return Carol to the Slave Trading Post.

When I exited the Herbalist Guild, Haru, Carol, Jofre, and Elise were waiting.

“Sebastan should be alright. We’re headed to the Slave Trading Post for now but what do the 2 of you plan to do?”

“We’d like to tour ... or more importantly, eat, I want to eat delicious food.”
(Jofre) “The preserved food weren’t really tasty ne.” (Elise) *(TL: ‘ne’ is just a cute/informal female way of ending a sentence, like ‘right?’ or ‘don’t you think?’)*

Even though she made such a mess while frantically eating it, she completely shot it down.

“Moreover, if we cash these in, we should be able to live leisurely for some time.”

“We’ll be able to live leisurely ne.”

The 2 of them held the medals in front of them.

Rare Medals are items that can strengthen monsters. Usually, one would not be able to obtain them without defeating rare monsters. In addition, one medal can go for 30 thousand sense. With 60 thousand for 2 medals, it’s quite an expensive item. It has the same value as 3 gold coins. I have 4 medals as well so maybe I should go with them to cash them in as well.

As I was having that thought.

“”Ah.””

Centaur bit Jofre and Elise’s hands with a chomp.

When they instinctively retracted their hands, the drool-covered Rare Medals ...

... Gokun.

Entered Centaur’s stomach with that onomatopoeia. *(TL: Lol is this a prelude to Centaur becoming an OP donkey? Hahah since Rare Medals level up monsters)*

“Spit it out, spit it out Centaur! That’s for our food expenses!”

“We’re penniless. Please.”

The 2 of them shook Centaur but it ignored them and continued eating the carrots I prepared as bait. They would most likely get angry ... or so I thought,

“Oh well. Thinking about it, it’s thanks to Centaur that we were able to obtain the Rare Medals in the first place.”

“That’s right. Without Centaur, we wouldn’t have been able to reach this town as well.”

The 2 of them looked like they came to accept what happened. For times like this, I thought that the word foolish(baka) could be used as a complimentary term as well.

Well, it’s a medal to strengthen monsters so it is the correct way to use it.

“You 2, I’ve gotten gold from Oregeru. Half of the portion I received was for you 2.”

As I said so, I checked the contents of the leather bag.

It was a mix of silver and gold coins in bundles without a single copper coin.

A decent amount ... no, my money sense has been crumbling lately, if it’s when I was in Japan, it’s a considerable amount of money.

It was a total of 86000 sense so I split out 43000 sense.

Incidentally, without realizing, Jofre and Elise now possessed item bags. They said that they picked it up so I guess they really picked it up.

“Ooo, we can eat delicious food with this.” (Jofre)

“Also, we can buy saddles for 2 to put on Centaur. After that, we have to get armor for Jofre as well ne.” (Elise) “That’s right, since it gets pretty tiring to ride on him directly. Later, we’ll have to buy a whip for Elise too na.” (Jofre) “No, if we’re going to buy my whip then Jofre’s sword comes first. I mean, Jofre’s my knight-sama after all.” (Elise) “No, if we’re buying my sword then we must get a buckler for Elise first. It’s the role of the knight to think about the safety of the princess first, right?” (Jofre) ” ... Jofre.” (Elise)

” ... Elise.” (Jofre)

“「Slash」!”

My 「Slash」 sunk into the surface between the 2 of them. The power sure has increased.

Well, the 2 of them were already used to it so they were not shocked by my 「Slash」.

“Do you 3 want to join? Let’s do a victory celebration!”

“To celebrate our victory! Ne, Jofre, who did we win against?”

“That is, of course, ourselves! Every day, we win against our yesterday’s self to live today.”

“Then we must have victory celebrations everyday ne.”

Yup, instead of daily victory celebrations, it should be every day happy day for you 2.

Regardless of their luck stat, the needle on their happiness status meter is most likely blown out of range.

“I’ll decline, as mentioned earlier, we have to go to the slave trading post so we’ll be parting with the 2 of you here.”

“I see! Then I wish you happiness! Jo~! Haru! Caro!”

“Be happy! Jo~! Haru! Caro!”

Those 2 happy individuals wished for our happiness as they rode off on Centaur.

Even though their words were a hundred times less suitable compared to the words from the mountain-like pile of non-employment reply letters I received in Japan, it caused an incomparable calmness in my heart. They will definitely always continue living just like that.

Happy people will bring happiness to those around them.

However, they also caused people to feel slightly irritated and more times than not the people around them could not keep up with their energy.

Be happy ... huh.

“One has to live happily huh.”

I looked at Carol ... and felt that I have to let her live happily.

Which was why, I easily turned back on my resolve to part with Carol in this town. My brittle wall of resolve collapsed and I constructed a new wall of resolve.

Let's purchase Carol.

Then, I was taken aback when I looked at her finger.

“I forgot to return the Friendship ring.”

” ... Should we chase after them?”

With Haru’s nose, it’s possible for us to chase after them but I shook my head.

“We’ll most likely meet them again, we can return it at that time.”

It was just a hunch. However, I found out that the hunch was not mistaken in the near future.

Then, I asked Carol.

“Carol, do you wish to travel with me?”

“Eh?”

“We’re on a laid back journey. The reason is not anything meaningful. I have an item bag and you can level up your Peddler level so, would you like to travel with us?”

“But, Carol is a slave.”

“If it’s the money to purchase Carol, I’ll do something about it. I’ve gotten gold from Oregeru and I have items that I can sell as well. Moreover, with an item bag, I am able to earn more money compared to other peddlers so I would be able to get earnings straight away.”

” ... But.”

“I didn’t say you have to give your reply right away. We’ll still remain in this town for slightly longer to put our equipment in order and I plan to leave tomorrow ... rather, is it alright if I decide it on my own, Haru? Is there anywhere you want to go?”

I suddenly felt uneasy and asked Haru but she shook her head with a smile

and said: "I leave everything to what master's heart dictates."

So, we'll be leaving for our journey tomorrow.

"Carol, during that time, please slowly think about it."

"Yes ... thank you very much."

Various thoughts must be crossing within Carol's small head currently.

I wish that her reply would be chosen for the sake of her own happiness.

I thought as we 3 headed toward the slave trading post.

Side Story

A land where the 6 pillar Goddesses can descend upon ... there is a hill that can be called that.

Kyupilas Hill.

With the great sacred shrine Kyupilas erected on it 1200 years ago.

There, the hero Alessio Magnal is under house arrest.

House arrest, the use of that term is meant for a person who was arrested due to treason toward the church ... it may even lead to execution if the punishment was severe.

But, the hero Alessio considered the position he was in as being under house arrest.

Subduing the Demon Lord, he became a hero in the truest sense of the word.

Raised as a hero by the church since birth, he set off on a journey when he had grown up, at the young age of 14.

Demon Lord extermination journey, it may sound exceptionally admirable when referred to like that but he, a 14-year-old boy, was only granted a silver

sword and 3000 sense by the church.

“There are other heroes. You are not the only hero.”

That was what he was told. In reality, the friends, or rather, the alumni that he spent time together with were all heroes. Those who must become heroes due to the destiny they were born with.

Hence, they did not question their own circumstances at all.

He thought of, no, he was made aware of how strange it was when he met his companions.

Magician Hag. Magic Engineer Daijiro.

If he did not encounter them, hero Alessio would amount to nothing more than ‘a single hero chess piece’.

Without seeing his ability to move freely, he would have continued to be held captive as a hero chess piece that can’t move out of the chess board.

However, during his journey with his companions, he found the true meaning of his own existence as a hero. That is how it seems to him now.

Which is why he can’t tolerate the ‘role’ of the hero the church ingrained into him.

To only have practice ingrained into him, to not have the permission to go out on his own or to drink the cheap ale he wanted to try when he reached adulthood.

He thought of escaping.

Then one day, he came upon a turning point. When the Magician Hag visited.

Even after 10 years, his face did not change much.

However, the long hair that he was proud of had all fallen off and he had become bald. He felt that it would not be appropriate to laugh but he could not help his line of sight from straying upward. *(TL: It's uncertain lol Hag can be a woman or a man with an unfortunate nickname/name.)*

"Stop staring at other people's head Aleo. Putting that aside, I came today because I have something I want to tell you."

Hag sighed at the gaze directed at his own head as he told Alessio.

" ... A seal of the Demon Lord has been released. It's that guy from the Arundel Kingdom."

" !?"

Taking into consideration the meaning of those words, Alessio was shocked.

Just a couple of decades, just waiting for a few more decades and everything should be over but the reality was that the seal was already released.

"Is it the work of the demon race?"

"No, there's a highway located nearby there so ... there's a possibility someone discovered the hidden labyrinth by chance and coincidentally succeeded in releasing the hidden door and took away the demon beads." *(TL: It's the beads/marbles beside the magic bag behind the hidden door Jofre and Elise found in the hidden labyrinth.)*

"That sure is a chain of chances and coincidences."

Even so, the trap laid there is a classical one so it should have been effective.

Moreover, he conveyed to Hag that it was crafted such that the door would not open within a year if the invader was wrong once. They should have a year to somehow plan their strike.

“Even so, I see. Demon Lord’s seal huh, that sure is troublesome.”

” ... You look quite pleased though.”

Hag did not miss the loosening of Alessio’s cheeks.

” ... Defeating the Demon Lord is what you think of when you refer to a hero after all. Have you told Daijiro?”

“No, not yet ... since Mallegory, where he is at, is far away ... or rather, it is in the opposite direction from Arundel. If so, we should directly set off to see the situation.”

“That’s true ... very well, I’ll go speak to the Holy Father (sensei) ... let’s set forth immediately.”

Alessio said so as he abandoned all the chores that he was assigned to and left the office.

Thus, Alessio Magnal ... for the 28-year-old, his second journey had begun.

(051) Smoke rising toward the ceiling

The smoke she exhaled formed rings as they floated up and disappeared as if being sucked in by the ceiling as Quince continued to stare at me.

Disposing of the ashes, the accumulated dregs of the shredded tobacco within the pipe, into a pot most likely used as an ashtray, she kept the pipe that had traces of her purple lipstick on it into a metal case and merely sighed.

After my explanation, Quince smoked her pipe as if pondering about something but it looked like she had finished collecting her thoughts,

“The blessing of the Goddess-sama huh ... that Torerul-sama rumoured to be a sloth, although it may be words from delusional people, but I can’t imagine her offering to change a person’s job.”

Quince said that as she sequentially looked at me and Haru.

I thought that I could fool everyone with the Goddess’ blessing premise but thinking back, the only people I fooled, apart from Carol, were only the idiot trio.

Thinking about it normally, I guess people would find it strange.

It appears that Carol had returned to her own room. She passed the 10 silver coins or 1000 sense she acquired at the deepest part of the labyrinth to Quince.

“Well, that child certainly seems to no longer be a Temptress ... that’s troubling. She was my biggest cash cow after all.”

“You look unexpectedly happy in spite of you saying that.”

“If you can notice it, it means that I still have a long way to go.”

Quince gave a slight smile as she played with the metal case ... and gently separated her hand from it.

“So, what do you plan to do? You wish to purchase that child?”

“That depends on that girl herself.”

“Money?”

“As long as it is within 100,000 sense.”

” ... Your hand is not something that should be shown so easily ... that amount is often only obtainable by cheating in the gambling parlour.”

Quince’s words sounded like an advice.

Normally, if a merchant reveals the money in his possession to the other party ... furthermore, to quote a price that is higher than the market price, even I know that there’s a chance the merchant will be ripped-off.

“I didn’t cheat in the gambling parlour. Have you heard of Gorsa-san?”

“I don’t recall you mentioning that you knew Gorsa ... well, he told me. That it was the first time he thought that it was enjoyable when competing with someone.”

Quince faced Haru,

“You’re Haurvatat right? I heard that you could be hired by the gambling parlour if your owner dies.”

“Master will not die before me. Since my life is master’s shield.”

“Hahaha, that’s admirable. I wonder what did you do to make a slave become so emotionally attached to you.”

Quince laughed cheerfully and asked as she came closer to my face by leaning forward.

“Maybe you could teach me for future reference for the those who purchase my slaves?”

“I didn’t do anything special in particular.”

That’s right. I didn’t do anything special. It’s just that Haru pledged her loyalty to me. And so, I think of wanting to live up to her loyalty. That’s nothing special either, it’s a matter of course.

Quince chuckled more and more livelier as if finding it entertaining.

“To not do anything special, so that’s the answer huh.”

She once again reached out the hand that she withdrew and opened the metal case to retrieve her pipe.

She clipped the tip of the cut tobacco and lit a fire. Smoke rose toward the ceiling.

Quince inhaled the smoke from the pipe deeply and exhaled the smoke toward the ceiling.

“10,000 sense is enough. Because I can’t justify a price any higher than that for that girl who is a Commoner now. If you consider that girl to be worth the 10,000 sense then please purchase her.”

Quince stared at the floating smoke and sighed.

Her face revealed both joyful as well as lonely expressions.

“Quince-san, maybe you’re not suited to be a slave dealer?”

“I’m aware even if you don’t tell me that.”

“Ha.” She laughed and put up a tough front as she once again looked at the ceiling.

Or rather, Quince has consecutively been pretending to look at the ceiling but she’s most likely thinking about Carol who’s on the 2nd floor.

Thanks to 「Presence Detection」, I know for a fact that her room is directly above this room.

“I’ve mentioned it multiple times but whether or not I buy her depends on Carol’s own decision.”

“It’s alright, that child should have discerning eyes for men.”

Quince looked at me and said with full confidence.

“She’s a child that I brought up after all? Or would you like to wager?”

“Quince-san, don’t you hate gambling?”

“I only hate bets that I will lose.”

I also hate losing so I politely refused.

In the first place, I don’t even have the confidence that I will win that bet after all.

※ ※ ※

The sun was already sloping downward greatly and the stars were shining in

the sky to the west by the time we reached the Adventurers Guild.

When we entered the Adventurers Guild, it was already filled with the smell of alcohol.

I could immediately tell that the adventurers who had received easy money from defeating the wool worms were making merry.

I don't particularly hate the merry atmosphere but I didn't really like the smell. Haru is most likely sensitive to the smell as well so I'd prefer to quickly finish our business and go home.

Contrary to the hustle and bustle in the guild, I found the bored-looking receptionist man and greeted him.

It was the same man that helped me yesterday.

As soon as he saw me, a smile floated onto his face and he spoke.

"Hey~ That guy Giraido was making a commotion. Something about you getting a great achievement." *(TL: The adventurer who tried to steal the brown bear Ichinojo was dismantling as well as the one he saved during the wool worm attack)*

"Giraido?"

"The adventurer you caught yesterday. At this point, we could no longer find his other offenses so we had him act as the outer security as punishment and the wool worm herd attacked."

Ah, so that's why that guy was at such a place.

"It's not something that great an achievement. By the way, have they found out the reason why the wool worms came to town?"

"Nope, not yet. However, this period coincides with the wool worm's breeding season so there're rumours going around that that is the reason."

Thank god, seems like they have not found out about the incident with Carol.
I'm relieved.

"I wish to collect Haru and my portion of the reward. Judging by the state of the guild, I believe the payment has already ended?"

"Yeah, a person gets 200 sense on average while a larger amount was paid to those who fought on the surface so you 2 get 700 sense in total. Incidentally, 100 sense within that amount comes from Giraido."

"From Giraido?"

"As thanks for saving his life."

"That guy's life sure is quite cheap."

"Don't say that, he's still a fledgling adventurer after all. A loss of 100 sense from his earnings should be quite a setback for him. That's just how thankful he is to you."

The receptionist man said that and,

"Well, poor earnings was the reason why he teamed up with his companions to rob the monsters other people were dismantling but he has learnt from his experience."

"That's good if that is the case."

I received the 7 silver coins. I did pick up a few of the materials and magic stones dropped from the minotaurs I defeated but I did leave the majority of it behind.

I guess it's fine if I sell them next time.

Well then, let's leave and go shopping, it was when I thought so and turned

heel to leave.

From behind ... Haru suddenly hugged me.

Two bulges hit my back and my back muscles tightened.

“Ha, Haru?”

“Master ... even if you purchase Carol, please do not throw me away.”

“There’s no way I would throw you away ...”

“I’m uneasy. Master has been steadily getting stronger and I feel that you might not need me anymore.”

“There’s no way I won’t need you. Even this time, it was because of Haru that we could successfully rescue Carol ... Ah ...”

When I turned around, Haru’s eyes were spinning round and round and she was sleeping with a bright red face.

... So she lost to the smell of alcohol in the guild huh.

There should be a limit to how weak you are to alcohol.

Shopping will most likely be impossible like this. It would soon be closing time for the shops as well.

Looks like there’s no choice but to push shopping to tomorrow.

“Geez.”

I carried Haru on my back and walked toward the inn.

Of course, I didn’t forget to change one of my jobs to Philanderer.

(052) Finding one's own worth

Philanderer level rose by 7 and I obtained a skill called 「Card Equip」.

Cards as in like those playing cards?

I thought to myself that there sure are unusual skills as well.

Why was it that yesterday it only rose by 5 levels and after I defeated the minotaur it became Lv10, but it rose all at once by 7 today? Well, that's because I've improved.

After we woke up in the morning, the 2 of us did practice swings together.

Perhaps due to the pre-breakfast training, my Swordsman job has reached a considerably high level and my level didn't rise even after a 30-minute training.

A 400 times multiplier would make it 200 hours, it was to the extent of having 5-hour training a day for 40 days so it's impossible after all huh. As expected, it can't beat the experience gained from actual combat.

Normally, one would wish to enter a bath after working up a sweat but obviously, there isn't such a thing here.

However, I have a secret weapon.

「Clean」! *(TL: It's written with the kanji for purification but the reading for clean)*

I applied the 「Clean」, lifestyle magic I memorized, on myself.

The moment I did that, my body was wrapped in bubbles and the next instant, the sticky feeling of being sweaty was wonderfully removed.

I found out that this purification was effective on the human body last night as well. After using 「Clean」 to wash the sheets soiled due to certain reasons, I thought of using 「Clean」 to wash us who had a large amount of sweat due to the same reasons and it was successful when I used it.

It seems like it washes the clothes along with the body.

It feels extremely pleasant.

After the cool-down time of 30 seconds, I used it on Haru as well.

Just with that, the heat from her body cools, her sweat completely disappears and her white hair, ears, and even until the tip of her tail, became beautiful as if they went through treatment. I'm falling in love all over again.

I've obtained a seriously convenient skill.

Originally, it does not show such amazing effects ... apparently, it is to the extent to wiping with a dry towel but the effect I get is most likely because I change to magic-specialised jobs to raise my magic attack when I use purification.

Looking at the magic list, 「Clean」 has proficiency and level as well so I intend to use it every time. It only uses 1 MP anyway.

When we first entered the room, items like the sheets were yellowed but now they were pure white. While thinking that the inn might even be grateful toward me for such a perfect job as we had our breakfast, the owner of the inn,

“As much as possible, please try to keep it down at night.”

warned me. Haru's tail limped down from embarrassment.

I was also embarrassed, it felt like my face was on fire.

But, it can't be helped. Once Carol becomes our companion, we will not be able to do what we've been doing until now.

I set Philanderer to Apprentice Blacksmith and we headed toward the slave trading post.

At the slave trading post, instead of Quince, Carol was sweeping the floor.

Carol noticed me and bowed,

“Good morning, Ichinojo-sama.”

greeting me with a smile. That expression, an energetic ... and age-corresponding smile that I would not imagine coming from a girl who wished to die a day before yesterday ... but, for some reason, the expression on Haru beside me was grim.

I recalled the words she said when we left the guild yesterday.

『Master ... please do not throw me away even if you purchase Carol.』

How uncharacteristic of Haru ... but, I felt that it might be words from Haru's true feelings.

I cherish Haru dearly.

Dear to the extent that it was difficult to say if Haru or my little sister that I left in Japan was more dear.

To the extent that if I'm told that I would die if I don't choose either of their lives, I would, without any hesitation, not make a choice. Of course, not forgetting the choice that I will seek for a solution to save everyone without choosing either of the choices, at the very least, the 2 of them are both irreplaceable precious existences to me.

However, to be honest, I can slightly understand Haru's anxiety.

It's said that, typically, affection is spread out more the greater the number of recipients.

But, as companions, I want to hope that it can become a strong bond if the number increases.

"Morning, Carol. Is Quince-san in?"

"Yes, Quince-sama is waiting inside."

"I see, could Carol come along too?"

"Yes ... allow me to accompany you."

When I entered the slave trading post, Quince-san was seated on a chair knitted from the bark of a tree and was blowing on her pipe.

"Good morning, Quince-san."

"Morning. So, have you heard of it from Carol?"

"No, not yet."

"I see. Then, Carol, say it yourself. Alright?"

"Yes."

Carol faced me with a smile,

“Ichinojo-sama, firstly, for saving me twice as well as discussing with the Goddess-sama about my job and restoring my job to Commoner, I would like to once again sincerely thank you.”

Carol gave a deep bow.

Then, she faced up with her smile still on and said.

“Also, I am extremely happy that Ichinojo-sama mentioned that he wants to purchase me.”

“Then ...”

You’re willing to come with me?

As I was about to say that ...

“Sorry.”

Carol shook her head.

“I am extremely happy with the sentiment. But, I can’t follow Ichinojo-sama.”

” ... I see.”

“Yes. I’m sorry.”

Carol lowered her head.

If that is what Carol has decided on, I will respect her will.

As I thought so.

“Carol-san, is that for the sake of master?”

Beside me, Haru asked with a serious face.

For my sake?

“Carol-san, you thought of it right? That with losing your ability as a Temptress, there is no value for a mere Commoner like you to follow master.”

“That ...”

“I’ve also had similar thoughts. If I have merit to master who is strong to the extent that he doesn’t require my protection.”

After Haru said that,

“But, I thought. If there’s no value, then it is fine to just work hard until you have value. It’s easy to escape by thinking that you are a slave who doesn’t benefit master. However, that is an act of breaking down your own self-worth.”

“My worth ...”

“Quince-san mentioned. To master, she would like master to purchase Carol-san if he could see your worth. But, before that, it won’t do if Carol-san can’t see your own worth. Is Carol-san really unable to be useful to master?”

“What I’m capable of ... I ...”

After Carol spoke a little and faltered,

“Until today, I have been studying about many towns!”

she cried out.

“The specialty products of each land, their situation, what’s tasty, what’s taboo. What race of people are there, what item can be sold for a high price, what is the job that has the most people. For the day I become a Peddler, every night, I have continued to study alone in my room!”

“That’s amazing ... that is an ability that I definitely don’t possess. I intend to look around the world from now on. For now, I’m aiming for Mallegory but, to be honest, it’s vague as to how we should get there. I have not bought a map as well.”

I’m not flattering her. For now, since Mallegory is to the southeast, I plan to aim southward but as to how we should get there, I seriously don’t know.

“If that’s the case, I can guide you! Ichinojo-sama, Carol ... please buy Carol!”

“Of course.”

To my reply, Quince quietly stood up and began preparing the documents for her purchase.

(053) Epilogue

After paying Quince 10000 sense, I officially became Carol's owner.

"Carol, don't cause any trouble for your new master."

"Yes. Thank you for your care until now, Quince-sama."

Quince and Carol said goodbye to each other.

For now, we'll have to configure Carol into the party and prepare her equipment.

Also, we'll have to change Carol's job to Peddler.

I wish to change it myself but we have to go to the church. Unless we get issued the occupational certificate proving that Carol is a Peddler, she won't be able to work as a Peddler.

"Carol, once we've finished getting ready for our journey, where do you think we should go to?"

Since I seriously came to this town with no plan, I asked Carol.

For now, we'll have to take a boat if we wish to travel to another continent.

"To reach Mallegory, we will have to take a boat from the port town of Port Kobe which is part of the Church's territory at the southernmost tip of this continent. For that purpose, we will have to pass through either the country of Korat or the country of Dakyat."

“Either Korat or Dakyat huh. Neither of the choices is quicker than the other right?”

“The distance is about the same. Because Korat is an agricultural country while Dakyat is a country with a lot of nomads, Korat has more vegetables while Dakyat has delicious meat and dairy products. Moreover, Korat and Dakyat has a poor relationship and they can’t resist from having small skirmishes so it is not possible to travel between the 2 countries and I do not think that it is a good idea to travel along the country borders.”

“I see.”

Well then, where should we go?

At times like this, to choose which to go to, instead of following Goddess-sama’s words, I’ll decide according to Haru-sama’s words.

“Haru, please look this way.”

“What is it?”

I turned towards Haru,

“Korat” I said. Haru’s reaction was weak. Her tail didn’t move either.

“Dakyat” I said. Similarly, her expression didn’t change. However, Haru’s tail was wagging.

“As such, I think we should go to Dakyat. I want to eat delicious meat as well.”

“Sure is easy to understand. Carol agrees too. Since I like milk as well.”

Carol agreed and taught me as she thought of this and that to purchase if we’re going to Dakyat.

“Eh? How was the decision made from that? Although I don’t mind going to Dakyat.”

Haru was confused even as her tail continued wagging.

Most likely because Haru is not aware of the movements of her own tail.

Well then, from now on, the journey of the 3 of us should begin in earnest.
But for some reason, I looked at my own skill and pondered.

Skill Description: Second Job Setting II 【Jobless Lv70】

Able to set the second job for party members.

The second job will be removed when they are removed from the party.

Ha~ I’ll have to explain about this too.

But ...

“Is it alright for me to address Carol without honorifics?”

“Yes, I’ll be in your care, Haru-san.”

Looking at the 2 smiling and talking like sisters, I once again thought about how blessed I was to travel together with such cute girls and also vaguely felt sorry towards Miri who I left behind alone in Japan.

※ ※ ※

In a room in a family-type apartment.

Even if it's described as so, the sight within it was abnormal to the extent that nobody would even believe it.

Without a single furniture, a room with only the floor, ceiling, wall, and door, together with the fitted sink and air conditioning. With just those, one would have been convinced if it is said to be a room in the mansion before anyone moved in.

If not for the closely packed written formulas on the floor and walls ... only drawn up to 150cm high.

Also, there were marks and dates written on the Japan map spread across the floor.

The pond at the base of Mount Osore in the Aomori Prefecture, in front of the Animate store in Akihabara, above the rollercoaster-like hill at the boundary of Shimane Prefecture and Tottori Prefecture, and the building behind Hirakata Police Station at Hirakata Osaka were all points that can transfer to the Otherworld.

However, those are still something in the future, more than a year later.

She has found the location where the next transfer is possible.

Which will happen the day after tomorrow.

“Causality huh ... to think that the next location that will transfer to the same place as Onii would be there.”

It is on top of the mountain that is located on the border of, but does not belong to, the Shizuoka Prefecture and Yamanashi Prefecture.

Treated as a land where God resides, apart from the mountain trails, the mountain is treated as the private grounds of the shrine. Incidentally, the mountain trails are prefectural roads.

Any Japanese citizen knows ... as do many non-Japanese know, of the impressive beauty of that mountain.

The name of that land ... the name of that mountain ... Mount Fuji.

The tallest mountain in Japan and the symbol of Japan certified as a World Cultural Heritage.

And that was the location where a young girl once journeyed to the Otherworld.

“Wait for me Onii, I’ll be there soon.”

I said that not to my brother who is no longer around, but to myself.

Then, from the entrance, looking toward the mansion with no one inside ... at the room that a family of 4 once lived peacefully, I turned my back and left with my school uniform on.

Without any tools for mountaineering.

Volume 2 Afterword:

Carol has been added to the companions without any problems and the story will continue on to the 3rd volume.

The heroes moving in the backgrounds (Side Story), Miri moving in Japan (Prologue & Epilogue) and Jofreli and Centaur moving without any thoughts.

Fundamentally, a story from Ichinojo’s first-person point of view ... first-person?

[First] (*ichi*) [person] (*No – removing one leg of the ‘people’ kanji*) [view] (*Sho*)?

[Ichi] [No] [Jo]?

Ah, so that's why he's called Ichinojo ... like hell that's the reason.

Ah, sorry for the lame talk. Next time, I'll think about it more before speaking.

Either way, basically it is a story with Ichinojo's first-person point of view but the other characters are moving in the background. Not only Jofreli, for example, the dropped heroine Norn who appeared before Haru in the first volume as well as the strong maternal(?) instinct Margaret are also scheduled to appear.

Well then, will an enemy-ish enemy finally appear next volume?

It's unknown whether there will be another heroine added in but I will endeavour to make it enjoyable.

Finally, the status at the end of the 2nd volume.

The status is lowered due to him setting Apprentice Blacksmith but it is considerably stronger compared to the end of volume 1.

Name:	Ichinojo	Race:	Hume
Job:	Jobless Lv71 (9↑)	Pugilist Lv34 (16↑)	Swordsman Lv34 (15↑)
	Apprentice	Hunter Lv50	
	Blacksmith Lv1 (25↑)		
HP:	511/511 (10+163+185+23+84) (x1.1) (135↑)		
MP:	110/110 (8+12+19+12+59) (38↑)		
Phy Atk:	820 (9+283+254+20+118) (x1.1) (351↑)		
Phy Def:	586 (7+231+198+16+81) (x1.1) (176↑)		
Mag Atk:	137 (4+31+42+8+52) (49↑)		
Mag Def:	146 (3+34+45+11+53) (57↑)		
Speed:	695 (4+241+192+10+185) (x1.1) (259↑)		

Luck: 66 (10+10+10+10+20) (x1.1)

【Equipment】

Cotton Clothes Hide Shoes Iron Light Armor Steel Sword

【Skills】

「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」 「Rotational Slash II」 「Swordsmanship
Strengthening (medium)」 「Dual Wield」

【Acquired Titles】

「Rare Hunter」 「Labyrinth Conqueror II」 「Skill Maniac」
「Peak of Apprentice Swordsman」

【Possible Job Changes】

Jobless Lv71	Commoner Lv72	Farmer Lv1	Hunter Lv50
	Apprentice Swordsman Lv40★	Apprentice Magician Lv27	Peddler Lv6
Apprentice Spearman Lv1	Swordsman Lv34	Archer Lv1	Apprentice Alchemist Lv8
Magician Lv13	Axe-user Lv1	Hammer-user Lv10	Pugilist Lv34
Philanderer Lv12	Magic Journalist Lv1	Apprentice Practitioner Lv7	Dismantler Lv1
Apprentice Blacksmith Lv1			

【Blessings】

20x experience point acquisition
1/20 required experience points

○ Organized Skills

Status Up

「HP Strengthening (minor)」 「Physical Attack Strengthening (small)」
「Physical Defence Strengthening (minor)」 「Speed Strengthening (minor)」
「Accuracy Correction (minor)」 「Luck Strengthening (minor)」 「Fist Attack II」
「Dexterity UP (minor)」

Equipment-based

「Bow and Arrow Equip」 「Cane Equip」 「Axe Equip」 「Flute Equip」 「Card
Equip」 「Hammer Equip」

Magic-based

「Fire Magic II」 「Water Magic II」 「Earth Magic」 「Wind Magic II」 「Lightning Magic」 「Healing Magic」 「Lifestyle Magic」

Combat skills

「Throwing」 「Presence Detection II」 「Concussive Strike」

Support skills

「Heal II」

Production skills

「Logging II」 「Dismantling II」 「Alchemy」

Appraisal-based

「Skill Description」 「Job Appraisal II」 「Food and Mineral Appraisal」

Others

「5th Job Setting」 「Job Modification」 「Skill Organization」 「2nd Job Setting II」 「Sword Deterioration Prevention」

For comparison, Haru’s status.

Name:	Haurvatat	Race:	White Wolf
Job:	Beast Swordsman	Lv7	
HP:	131/131 (62↑)	MP:	34/34 (9↑)
Phy Atk:	123 (72↑)	Phy Def:	114 (74↑)
Mag Atk:	0	Mag Def:	61 (21↑)
Speed:	295 (185↑)	Luck:	20

【Equipment】

Slave Collar	Fire Dragon Fang	Short Sword	Silk Dress
Leather Shoes	Wind Brooch		

【Skills】

「Stone Throw」 「Bow Equip」 「Dismantling」 「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」 「Rotational Slash II」 「Bow and Arrow Equip」 「Swordsmanship Strengthening (Small)」 「Speed UP (Minor)」 「Dual Wield」 「Experience Point Distribution」 「Olfactory Strengthening」 「Forgery Appraisal」

【Acquired Titles】

「Labyrinth Conqueror II」 「Party Leader」

【Possible Job Changes】

Commoner Lv15	Farmer Lv1	Hunter Lv5	Lumberjack Lv1
Apprentice	Swordsman Lv23	Beast Swordsman	
Swordsman Lv25		Lv7	

Because Beast Swordsman is an advanced job, the status are fundamentally quite high.

Incidentally, she is wearing the scarf exchanged to hide the slave collar but it is not displayed as it does not have equipment capabilities.